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Inter-Arab Affairs

PLO Envoy in Bucharest 'Attacked, Hospitalized'

JN2612184189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] A well-informed Palestinian source said in Tunis today that Fu'ad al-Bitar, the chief of the Palestinian diplomatic mission in Bucharest, was attacked and hospitalized in Bucharest in the last few days.

A Palestinian source said PLO Tunis representative Hakam Bal'awi has informed the Romanian charge d'affaires in Tunis of attacks on Palestinian diplomatic mission staff members in Bucharest and on Palestinian students there.

'Arafat Summons East Bloc Envoys on Romania

'Concern' Over Attacks on Palestinians

NC2612171689 Cairo MENA in English 1649 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 26 (MENA)—Palestinian official sources said that ambassadors of some socialist countries who are accredited here were summoned for a meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

The sources told a MENA correspondent that 'Arafat expressed during the meeting his deep concern over attacks on some Palestinian and Arab students and members of the Palestinian mission in Romania by some irresponsible elements which were carried by the tendentious information campaign backed by Zionist circles.

The campaign circulated lies about the participation of some Palestinians and Arabs in the ongoing fighting in Romania.

The sources said that President 'Arafat asked the ambassadors for immediate action to put an end to the attacks and to halt the tendentious information campaign that aims at undermining the friendly relations between the Palestinian people and the Arab nation on one side and the socialist countries on the other.

The sources added that 'Arafat also asked for protection for the Palestinian and Arab students studying in Romania.

The sources concluded their statements by saying that 'Arafat expressed wishes for the success and victory of the Romanians in their uprising for freedom and democracy.

The socialist countries' ambassadors who were summoned for a meeting were the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, Romania, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

'Arafat had arrived in Baghdad at a late hour last night.

Says Events 'Internal Matter'

JN2612180789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat summoned the ambassadors of socialist states accredited to Baghdad today to voice the PLO's concern that some Palestinian students have been subjected to attacks by irresponsible elements in certain Romanian towns because these elements were misled by a media campaign that attempted to implicate Palestinian, Syrian, Libyan, and other Arabs in current events in Romania.

'Arafat asserted that the current events in Romania are an internal matter and are of primary concern to the friendly Romanian people.

For its part, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine denounced the lies concerning the alleged participation of Palestinians and Arabs in current battles in Romania at the side of the remaining pro-Ceausescu units.

Syria and Libya have already categorically denied the participation of Syrians and Libyans in Romanian fighting at the side of Ceausescu's supporters.

PLO Officials Deny 'Rumors' on Romanian Events

JN2712102889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Dec 89 pp 1, 18

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] Amman—A number of PLO officials have denied the rumors that are being circulated by the Israeli occupation authorities on the participation of Palestinians in the incidents in Romania at the side of Nicolae Ceausescu. These officials expressed the PLO's support for the National Salvation Front that has toppled Ceausescu.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih stressed that the PLO does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any state in the world. Al- Sa'ih said that the PLO supports what the friendly Romanian people want and that it supports the Romanian National Salvation Front, which was chosen by the people. The PNC speaker said that all Palestinian students in Romania are safe and well.

Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and its representative in Amman, denied the involvement of the PLO or any of the Palestinian students in the Romanian incidents. He pointed out: As usual, the Zionist occupation authorities seek to involve the PLO in all world incidents in an attempt to distort the Palestinian people's struggle against these authorities.

Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and director of occupied homeland affairs, said that what has taken and is taking place in Romania is a domestic issue that is none of our business. He said: We do not interfere in any country's affairs.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Milhim added: We in the PLO support the freedom and prosperity of the Romanian people and their efforts to attain their rights. They are a friendly people and we wish them progress and success.

Regarding the false reports that were fabricated by the Israeli Mosad on Palestinian participation at the side of Ceausescu, he pointed out that Ceausescu's men burned several libraries in Romanian universities and shelled some universities as well as a student housing complex. This has led to the killing of several students of various nationalities, he said. He added, however, that this does not mean that these students took part in the battles.

The PLO Executive Committee member said: The Palestinian people's battle is neither in Romania nor in any other state—it is in the occupied homeland. The Palestinian people do not fight against the Romanian people, but against the enemy that is occupying their land and killing their sons. He added that the Palestinian people have fought only against the Israeli occupation troops and during the invasion of Lebanon. He said that Palestinian students have never interfered in the affairs of any state and that they are respected in every state in which they receive education because they respect the laws of the countries in which they reside.

Milhim added: Israel seeks to divert attention from what it is doing, and it is shedding crocodile tears over the Romanian people while it is carrying out acts even more hideous than those carried out by Ceausescu's men. He said: Therefore, Israel is the last side that has any right to speak about such issues.

He stressed the PLO's support for the Romanian people's choice of the National Salvation Front and hoped that the Romanian people will continue to be the Palestinian people's friend.

Qaddumi on U.S. 'Double Standard' on Human Rights

JN2612190089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tunis, 26 Dec (INA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has condemned the U.S. military intervention in Panama and the subsequent bloody events of which many Panamanians became victim.

At a news statement here today, Faruq Qaddumi said that the United States views the concepts of democracy, human rights, and freedom from two different perspectives. It ignores these values when they concern violations in occupied Palestine, South Africa, Latin American countries, and the peoples of Third World countries in general.

In his statement, Faruq Qaddumi renewed the PLO's concern over strengthening its friendship and solidarity with the people in East Europe in appreciation of their steadfast and supportive position on the Palestine question.

He pointed out that recent months have been characterized by a sequence of events of great importance in the East European countries, indicating their people's aspirations for democracy, economic progress, and peace. The PLO has been following these events with great interest out of its firm belief that they are internal events within the framework of the people's right to self-determination.

He stated that the PLO has called on Palestinian students enrolled at Romanian medical schools to participate in ministering to the wounded and providing all possible aid by coordinating with local authorities.

Intifadah Unified National Leadership Call No 50

JN2612192089 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 26 Dec 89

['Text' of Call No 50, "Call of the Revolution's Anniversary," issued by the "Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the State of Palestine" on 25 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Call, call, call: No voice rises above that of the intifadah; no voice rises above that of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO; call issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI]; call of the revolution's anniversary, Call No 50:

O our great people; O people of the revolution's anniversary; O people of the PLO; O our great people who have destroyed the myth of Zionist security and who knew how and when to dust off disgrace, assert your intifadah, and set fire and flame in your body, scorching the occupier's belligerence, which finds nothing in the logic of humanity and morals to deter it from its crimes and which shamelessly affirms its nazism and fascism.

Never mind, our people. The nature of your enemy and struggle makes you the foremost soldier of humanity in the war against bestiality, oppression, and Zionism. This will be realized, and the rest of the world will be convinced of it, as the majority thus far has. The whole world will realize that Zionism is a synonym—nay, a strong competitor—of the animosity of its methods to the morals of mankind. Historians must take their consciences to account when a state in the 20th century kills over 200 children of a total of 900 martyrs killed either by bullets, suffocation from poison gas, being buried alive, or direct burning; injures over 800,000 Palestinians by bullets, steel balls, clubs, and stones, more than 4,000 of whom are left permanently handicapped and 200 blinded, most of them women and children; arrests tens of thousands of our people; expels scores; and blows up hundreds of houses. Historians must express their opinions on a state with a government capable of issuing an order to execute 1 Palestinian per day, injure 10, handicap 10, blind 1, and detain 100 Palestinians a day; capable of killing a child and woman every 2 days; capable of deporting a Palestinian every week; and capable of blowing up a house from one day to the next.

You, our people, are putting up with all this and are proud of your past and your holy march toward your rights, which you shall never give up—your rights to repatriation, self-determination, and to live in your independent state—while realizing that this right will be challenged—nay, it must be wrenched away. Blessed are you, our struggling people. Long may you live for the whole of humanity, to remain a valiant soldier whose struggle affirms the right of nations to live in peace and freedom on their territory. Supporting you in this struggle are all the honorable and liberal people in the world.

O masses of our brave people, O our saintly injured, O our prisoners of freedom, O our patient and steadfast bereaved: You are now proceeding down the path of the greatest, most painful intifadah known to this age. You are placing the banner of the State of Palestine and its capital, Jerusalem, on the crossroads of your revolution's 25th anniversary, knowing full well the revolutionary background which began from the 1st day of the occupation through land confiscations; attempts to settle our people's political cause; attempts to overtake our people's destiny, capabilities, the basic tenets of their existence, and political identity; attempts to impose suspect solutions on them, attempts—first physical, then political—at annihilation, where these attacks were practiced under various pretenses; all had but one essence: Namely, the attempt to settle our people's national cause, since it is the center of contradictions in the region.

They tried to devise plots, sometimes calling them self-rule or civil administration. On other occasions, their plots came under the heading of alternatives to the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of our people—and yet on others, they came under the titles of various options. Our enemy has prepared for all these plots by directing military, economic, political, social, cultural, moral, and humanitarian strikes. It acted to sabotage our social and cultural structure, and it violated human rights and all taboos. All Palestinians have suffered, and each one was hit in his land, farm, factory, shop, or house. They suffered in the streets, during their travel over the bridges, and in all their movements. The Palestinians lost security, and their daily bread and the future of their children became threatened. The Palestinian citizen paid the price for staying on his homeland with all forms of agony; he bore all forms of blackmail and exploitation perpetrated against him by the occupiers. But, after all, this is the tax of life, which the Palestinians have paid generously. The voice of Palestinian suffering cried out time and again, and our people realized that their destiny cannot be determined unless they take the initiative by themselves.

Through their gigantic intifadah, the Palestinians proved to the entire world the fallacy of coexistence, civil administration, and the like—pronouncements that the occupation tries to promote. Our united people launched their popular intifadah, which gave their movement this momentum and stirred the conscience of the world. It made it clear that the peoples of the occupied state of Palestine reject and resist occupation and demand the establishment of an independent state under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Our people's intifadah erupted with vigor and strength, causing enemy defeats on the political, economic, media, and moral levels. All this lies on the sidelines of the real intifadah achievements, represented by the political isolation imposed on the enemy by the world. The achievements of the intifadah on this level have continued, beginning with the disengagement of ties with the Jordanian regime and up to the proclamation of the independent state and successive world recognition of this state. These changes influenced international political considerations in a manner harmonious with international law. These achievements by our people through their intifadah and convoys of martyrs, wounded, and deportees could not have been possible without the long list of formidable, militant accomplishments produced by our people through decades of struggle, long uprisings and strikes, and armed revolutions. The inception of the modern Palestinian revolution, the Palestinian armed struggle on 1 January 1965, constituted a sharp turning point in Palestinian struggle. This revolution made miracles and turned the masses of our people from lines of refugees to convoys of brave fighters. On this occasion, we congratulate the Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah and the masses of our people on the 25th anniversary of the inception of the Palestinian revolution, this anniversary dear to the heart of every Palestinian. The UNLI and the masses of our people salute and express pride in the martyrs and wounded of this revolution and in all the martyrs of the Arab nation who fell in defense of the revolution and the Palestinian cause.

The inception of the modern Palestinian revolution came to show that our people, which have reached the age of maturity, are handling their cause by themselves. The time of trusteeship has gone, as have attempts to dump our people, together with their advocates, on the ash heap of history. Our people have continued the struggle and have announced the launching of their valiant popular intifadah and the formation of their unified national leadership, thus embodying their sacred, unquestioned national unity. Our people have managed to continue and escalate the intifadah, foiling all attempts to deflect their sole legitimate leader and representative, the PLO. In this regard, the UNLI rejects all plans that ignore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Our heroic masses: In order to proceed on this path and maintain your great achievements, which led the intifadah on a straight course and demonstrated partial acts of disobedience—where the battles of Bayt Sahur and Bayt Liqya were decisive examples in favor of promoting the blessed intifadah—the UNLI, in faithfulness to the blood of our victims, martyrs, and bereaved mothers, urges the masses of our people to act diligently and persistently and with all available militant means to promote our intifadah, embody the national authority of the people, and lay down the foundations of our state. This cannot be achieved except by continuing the intifadah, intensifying its popular character, proceeding with the boycott against the institutions of the occupation, and implementing the program of the intifadah through continued escalation of militant initiatives as a prelude to advancing the valiant intifadah toward splendid victory, God willing.

O masses of the December popular intifadah: The UNLI stresses the following:

—The UNLI calls on the masses of our people to observe a 1-day mourning for our righteous martyrs, instead of 3 days. The mourning should be observed in the martyr's city, village, or camp.

—The UNLI calls for shops to open and for normal traffic to proceed on the day immediately following the lifting of a curfew—imposed for 3 or more days—irrespective of what day of the week it is.

—The UNLI asks our masses, especilly in Gaza and Jerusalem, to be alert to attempts to remarket Israeli commodities by changing their brandnames. It stresses that our strike force will lie in wait for the promoters of these commodities. The UNLI also asks street vendors to abide by the working hours set by it.

—The UNLI calls on our courageous traders and shop owners not to respond to occupation forces' demands to close their shops before the time set by the UNLI. It asks our strike forces to stand by the traders in this respect.

—The UNLI calls on the detainees and their relatives to reject utterly the payment of fines for courts or others. It stresses that those who pay such fines will not be compensated.

—The UNLI calls for reorganizing popular education, given that it is one of our future state's organs.

—The UNLI appeals to Palestinian detainees in prisons and concentration camps to entrench the spirit of unified national and democratic action among themselves.

—The UNLI applauds and greets the nongovernmental organizations and appeals to our masses to support their activities and demonstrations of solidarity with our people's struggle for their legitimate rights.

—The UNLI salutes our Palestinian masses in the territories occupied in 1948 and the Syrian Arab masses in occupied Golan for their brave action on the 2d anniversary [of the intifadah].

—On behalf of our people, the UNLI welcomes Bishop Desmund Tutu's visit. It also welcomes the U.S. bishop, Jesse Jackson [as heard], stressing the importance of these visits and utilizing them to enhance world solidarity with our people's struggle for freedom and in exposing the Israeli repression and terrorism.

—The UNLI congratulates Christian sects on Christmas and highly appreciates the Christian clerics' decision to confine festivities to religious rituals in view of the circumstances experienced by our people.

O masses of our people: The UNLI urges you to carry out the following activities:

—26-31 December will be days of distinguished escalation on the revolution's anniversary. We urge the masses of our people to confront the occupation with all available means.

—1 January will be a day of distinguished escalation on the occasion of the anniversary of the Fatah Movement and the Palestinian revolution. On that day, massive demonstrations will be staged. Palestinian flags, slogans, and banners will be raised. These demonstrations will proceed to visit the martyrs' tomb. At 0500, our masses will leave their houses to chant the national Palestinian anthem, and automobile horns will be sounded for 1 minute at 1200.

—4 January will be a day of consolidating the boycott of Israeli commodities and to pursue the stores and sources that supply these commodities.

—On 6 January, stores will open until 1700 in honor of Christmas.

—7 January will be a day for silent demonstrations from churches to protest the violations against our holy places.

—9 January will be a day of a general strike on the monthly anniversary of the intifadah, which also coincides with the anniversary of the establishment of the UNLI.

—10-16 January will be a day of solidarity with the valiant detainees at Ansar-3 through staging demonstrations and sit-ins at the Red Cross headquarters as well as demonstrations by detainees' mothers.

—17 January will be a day of general strike to express our people's denunciation of U.S. policy, which is opposed to our people's rights and biased toward Israel.

—On 20 January, students will head toward their universities and institutes, where they will raise banners demanding their right to pursue their classes.

Victory is definitely ours.

Palestinian Ambassador Appointed to Yugoslavia

JN2212175689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The Government of Yugoslavia has officially agreed to appointing Brother Ibrahim Asad as ambassador of the State of Palestine to Yugoslavia. Brother Abu-Yahya, director of the PLO Political Department, was informed of this when he received the ambassador of Yugoslavia to the State of Palestine yesterday. During the meeting, ways of promoting bilateral ties and the Nonaligned Movement's nine-member committee meeting, which is due to be held in Belgrade in January 1990, were discussed.

Egypt

Mubarak on Syrian Relations, European Developments

NC2612204589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has emphasized that Egypt is still working to convene the tripartite meeting between Egypt, Israel, and the United States in Washington with a view to preparing for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, since this is the objective of the tripartite meeting. President Mubarak added: "I have said more than once that we do not represent the Palestinians; we help them."

President Mubarak made these remarks to reporters at the end of his visit to a model farm during a tour of al-Sadat city today.

Regarding Syria and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mubarak said that Syria is an Arab country, and if there is talk about the resumption of relations between us and Syria, this will in no way be against anyone. I do not allow anyone to use me to strike at another Arab country. This is and will always be completely against my principles.

President Mubarak said that the Syrian vice president had visited Cairo and that he will send Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi as an emissary to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. "After that, there will be a meeting betwen me and President Hafiz al-Asad," he added.

President Mubarak was then asked about the recent changes in Eastern Europe, the effect of East-West rapprochement on developing countries, and whether Egypt has prepared a study on the events expected in the coming period. President Mubarak said Egypt is first studying what its position will be when Western Europe becomes unified in 1992. He added that in addition to the unification of Western Europe, events are taking place in Eastern Europe. He referred to the situation between the two Germanys and the events in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Romania.

He pointed out that Eastern Europe is trying to achieve development and bring in technology from Western Europe because it has found itself far behind the West and wants to catch up.

Asked about where the Arab world will stand in 1992, the president said a study on this issue is being made and that he had asked various parties to take part in its preparation. He added that he will present the study to the Arab leaders after it is completed. Following this, the matter will be studied by Arab experts to determine how the Arab world will deal with the new groupings expected to be formed in North America, Latin America, and Europe. He added that Eastern Europe will develop and will eventally link up with Western Europe. The president asked: Where do we stand now? If we do not find a place for ourselves soon, we stand to suffer greatly. That is why this matter must be discussed, and we have started to study it.

Asked about attempts by some parties to cast doubt on the credibility of the new investment bonds in dollars, the president said that this was to be expected. Whenever an achievement is made in investment, some people start to raise doubts. However, what we are accomplishing in the various domains will serve the interests of Egypt and the Egyptian people, he added, noting that it would have been better for these people to think of new ideas that could benefit the Egyptian people instead of raising doubts. The president pointed out that there are always people at home and abroad who raise doubts in an effort to bring the development process in Egypt to a halt so that we are always in need and always knocking at doors for food and being a burden to others. The president called on the people to be alert to this issue. He added: We have constitutional institutions where any constructive ideas can be discussed, and if these ideas prove to be in the country's interests, I am ready to adopt them. The president noted that we are working diligently for the sake of our youth, because we must lead the way for them. What we are accomplishing in the infrastructure, electricity, housing, water, roads, and telephones seeks to promote investment, which will benefit future generations.

Regarding Egypt's assistance to the Romanian people, President Mubarak said we are standing beside the Romanian people and agree with them. We send them what medical supplies we can, in appreciation of their stand and as a humanitarian gesture, because Egypt never hesitates in such circumstances.

Asked whether he will meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn soon, he said: I can meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at any time and there is full mutual confidence between us.

Regarding a meeting betwen him and President al-Asad, he said we are discussing procedures and after diplomatic relations are restored, there will be no problem with a meeting between me and President al-Asad. The president said Arab solidarity and the good inter-Arab relations in general seek to serve the interests of the Arab world and to resolve its problems.

Syrian Foreign Minister on Ties With Egypt

NC2312071689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2208 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian initiative submitted by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, urging the EC to lift the sanctions against Syria and Libya.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo this evening, Al-Shar' said the ties between Syria and Egypt are special, historic, and deep-rooted. He asserted that this

Arab stand supporting Syria is a good beginning in the progress of inter-Arab relations. He expressed his belief that Egyptian-Syrian relations will be a big motive for the restoration of Arab solidarity and adopting a unified Arab stand to face all future challenges.

Prime Minister Scheduled To Visit Damascus

NC2612152289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1447 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi will pay a visit to Damascus in the next few days. The visit will come within the framework of an official mission dealing with the current exchanges between Egypt and Syria, the latest being the recent visit to Cairo by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. During his visit, which lasted for a few hours, Khaddam conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

As part of these contacts, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif recently paid a visit to Damascus and conveyed a message from President Mubarak to President al-Asad within the framework of the ongoing efforts to rectify the course of relations between the two fraternal countries. An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official is scheduled to visit Damascus prior to Dr Sidqi's visit.

PLO's Hurani, Al-Surani Arrive in Cairo

NC2212161889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] In a message sent to the head of the Egyptian UN Society for the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that Egypt's backing and support for the Palestinian cause will always motivate the Palestinians to endure sacrifices until they achieve victory.

Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani and Jamal al-Surani arrived in Cairo this morning.

Al-Baz, PLO Officials Meet

NC2312131889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—A high level Egyptian-Palestinian meeting was held in Cairo today. It was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs; PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and 'Abdallah Hurani; Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Responsible Palestinian sources said that the meeting falls within the framework of constant Egyptian-Palestinian consultation and coordination and that the conferees assessed the situation at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. The sources added that the conferees also assessed the current obstacles facing the peace process in the Middle East and discussed areas of action in the coming stage.

'Abd-al-Majid Addresses Arab-European Dialogue

NC2212161789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today addressed the Arab-European dialogue conference which is being held in Paris under the chairmanship of French President Francois Mitterrand and Moroccan King Hassan II.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said this conference is a landmark on the road to stimulating the Arab-European dialogue and serving the mutual interests of the two groups.

Discusses Arab-European Ties

NC2312082489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2212 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, affirmed that the Arab-European dialogue conference has been successful by all standards and that the spirit of reality and moderation prevailed at the conference.

Speaking to Radio Monte Carlo tonight, 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt's return to participation in the Arab-European dialogue has been welcomed and supported by every one. He noted that the Arab side was eager to adopt a unified stand.

Commenting on Britain's stand on lifting the economic sanctions against Syria and Libya, he said that he has been in favor of this from the beginning. The European side, he added, has understood the idea and that Britain's position has been positive. He expressed his appreciation for the good spirit and positive response on the part of Britain.

On the prospects of the Arab-European cooperation, 'Abd-al-Majid welcomed the new rapprochement between East and West Europe and hoped that this would not take place at the expense of the Third World, Arab countries, or the Mediterranean countries.

He pointed out that he had been given assurances and heard statements by the European side, asserting the continuation of European-Arab relations and that these relations will expand and achieve further progress.

Comments on Paris Meeting

NC2312153189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 23 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the coming stage in Arab-European relations as very important. He added that he expects it to witness the implementation of certain agreed upon projects which serve the common interests of both sides and contribute to enhancing Arab-European cooperation.

Speaking to Egyptian journalists following his meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the Arab-European dialogue conference was clearly positive and realistic in handling various political, cultural, and economic topics. It demonstrated both sides' desire to bolster cooperation and to succeed in their dialogue.

The foreign minister remarked that the experts and ministers' 2 days of discussion laid a solid foundation for the future. He noted the constructive role played by France and French President Francois Mitterrand in bringing about the success of this conference, as well as the European and Arab responsiveness to the conference.

In his statement, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the conference showed the participants' understanding and common vision of political issues and reflected their appreciation of European stands announced in Madrid and Strasbourg.

Concerning Third World debts, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that he was eager throughout the conference to give this issue special attention and to stress in particular the medium-income and indebted states. He added that this issue has indeed gained new momentum, thanks to the appointment of former Italian Prime Minister Benedetto Craxi as the UN secretary general's special representative.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid also said that he was keen on emphasizing the role of northern and southern Mediterranean states and on stressing economic and environmental cooperation in the coming stage. He noted that the EC countries have their own plan to develop the Mediterranean region.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted the participants' reiteration that rapprochement between Eastern and Western Europe will not be at the expense of Mediterranean countries. He added that the assurances he received during peripheral meetings showed that European countries are aware of the problem and adopting a constructive approach. However, he said, we must enhance this approach.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted the unified Arab stand, saying that all Arab participants were expressing the same view and were not stressing marginal differences.

PRC President Leaves Alexandria for UAE

NC2312110889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 23 Dec (MENA)—PRC President Yang Shangkun left Alexandria at noon for the United Arab Emirates, concluding a 3-day [as received] private visit to Alexandria. [passage omitted]

Trade Minister Leaves for Baghdad ACC Meeting

NC2312103989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 23 Dec (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, left Cairo for Baghdad early this morning to participate in the second 2-day meeting of the ministers of economy, supply, and trade of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states, which will convene later today.

Dr Jalal Abu-al-Dhahab, minister of supply and internal trade, left for the Iraqi capital 2 days ago to attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to coordinate internal and foreign trade among the ACC states.

Mubarak Delivers Speech on Victory Day

NC2312135789 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said that only Egyptians can build Egypt. He appealed to all those who have the resources to contribute to construction operations in the various fields and not to hesitate in performing this sacred duty.

This was in the president's message to the people of Port Said on the occasion the 33d anniversary of their victory. The message was delivered on behalf of the president by Dr Ahmad Salamah, minister of state for People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, during a celebration held today in the al-Shuhada' Square in Port Said. [passage omitted]

The president said that celebrations this year are surrounded by several occasions which inspire pleasure with past as well as present events. In the past, we were pleased by one victory after another. At the local level, we are proceeding along the road of construction in various fields. This is the result of accurately designed planning.

The president commended the efforts of the Port Said people in building their governorate. He noted that Port Said's governorate spent over 613 million pounds in this fiscal year on different sectors. The president asserted that the state is working hard to remove the obstructions to public sector activity, which has a significant role to play. He said both the public and private sectors are two pillars which play their role in serving society.

He noted that current suggestions to develop the public sector aim mainly to strengthen, rather than eliminate this sector, so that it can continue to perform its economic and social roles efficiently.

The president said that he is pleased with what has been accomplished at the Arab, African, and international levels. At the Arab level, Egypt returned to the Arabs. At the African level, Egypt was elected to chair the OAU. At the international level, Egypt has become a power which affects international events. It contributes efforts in various directions, especially that of peace.

President President Husni Mubarak remarked that action at the local level is inseparable from work at foreign levels. He said that a large part of local achievements was largely the result of strenuous activity at the foreign level and the fruit of strong relations with all states. In our foreign relations, we are eager to protect our freedom of will. This is a fact to which all the world will testify. [passage omitted]

Iraq To Transfer Workers' Due Payments Early 1990

JN2312154489 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
20 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] The Iraqi Government has decided to transfer $50 million of Egyptian workers' due payments in two installments in the first half of January 1990. Nabil Najm, Iraq's ambassador in Cairo, has stated that he informed President Mubarak of this decision during their meeting the day before yesterday.

Egypt's Role in Improved Iraqi-Libyan Ties Noted

JN2312151489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
21 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that talks between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealt with the possibility of Libya joining the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] within a few months. On the other hand, Col al-Qadhdhafi has expressed readiness to accept and implement the decisions approved by the recent ACC summit concerning commodity and trade exchange, in addition to organizing the entry and departure of people between ACC countries and Libya.

Meanwhile, informed political sources have confirmed that the Libyan leader indicated that the coming period will witness an improvement in his relations with Iraq. These sources pointed out that Egypt and the Yemen Arab Republic will play a vital role in the normalization of Iraqi-Libyan relations within a short period.

Zaki Badr Urges Citizens 'To Counter Terrorism'

NC2212211789 Cairo MENA in English 1750 GMT
22 Dec 89

[Text] Qina, Upper Egypt, Dec 22 (MENA)—Interior Minister Zaki Badr today said that his ministry will counter terrorism in all its forms, adding that extremist elements should be eradicated.

At a popular rally held in Aswan, the interior minister urged the citizens to counter terrorism by cooperating with the police, underlining that Egypt will remain secure if it will continue to the Holy Koran and the Sunna. He further said that the citizens were the real guards of security in the country.

'Thousands' Protest at Cairo University

JN2212211789 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-al-'Aynayn]

[Excerpt] Thousands of Cairo University students staged demonstrations last Wednesday [13 December]. They went out in a massive march that spread over the university campus to announce support for the Palestinian intifadah and to denounce the Zionist existence. Boisterous demonstrations broke out again on the following day when the university security forces prevented Dr Yusuf al-Qardawi from entering the university to deliver a lecture at the College of Commerce. On the first day, demonstrators called for the abrogation of the Camp David accords, a halt to normalization of relations with Israel, and the expulsion of the Zionist ambassador.

The students raised several Islamic banners and slogans greeting the intifadah and sported Palestine flags on their chests.

On the following day, the students called for protection against the domination of students activities by the university guards and the security forces. The students sent cables to the president of the Republic, the al-Azhar rector, and the Awqaf Ministry appealing for an end to this farce. The march was headed by the members of the student unions in all colleges alongside the university union council represented by Ayman 'Ali, who burned the U.S. flag, and Ahmad al-Raydi, assistant secretary general of the union, who set the Israeli flag ablaze in the midst of the anger and indignation of everyone against Zionism.

In addition, the Islamic group held prayers inside the university campus for the souls of the martyred, and considered last Thursday [14 December] a day of solidarity with the mujahidin in terms of money, blood, fasting, and prayers.

The students concluded the march with a student conference that was attended by many correspondents and Arab and foreign news agency reporters in which Ayman 'Ali, head of the University Student Union, delivered a speech. 'Ali affirmed that the Palestine question depends on three elements—Arab, national, and Islamic, and that Palestine will not be regained via negotiations or conferences, but through jihad and armed struggle.

The head of the student union called on all international organizations to intervene for the release of intifadah leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and his colleagues, who are being subjected to the most savage forms of torture in the Zionist jails.

The Islamic group representative delivered a speech, stressing that struggle is the only road to the liberation of

Palestine, declaring his rejection of any other solutions, asserting that these are only useless views that are not in the interest of this cause.

The conference issued several recommendations, including sending several cables to the president and speakers of the People's Council and the Consultation Council, calling for opening avenues for volunteering and jihad in Palestine. It also called for severing all diplomatic links with the Zionist entity, including normalization of relations.

The conferees appealed to the president to expel the Zionist ambassador and the Zionist communities, and to recall the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv. They also decided to send a cable to the Zionist and U.S. ambassadors deploring their presence in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Libya

Yugoslav TV Interviews Al-Qadhdhafi on Romania

LD2612204989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Al-Kanun [26 December], JANA—Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has addressed the Romanian people via the Yugoslav television station in Novi Sad. He stated the Romanian people should not, given their colossal sacrifices, go back to a system which will compel them to pay a similar price again in 40 years or in 24 years. He added that the revolutionary people, having toppled the one-party system and dictatorship, should take the reins of power.

The brother leader added: [Words indistinct] the revolutionary people which has toppled dictatorship. And then the masses [jamahir] should form people's congresses so that power will be in the hands of the congresses [words indistinct]. It should not choose another government even if such a government might be a good one because in due time the people might have to rise against it. Every government has an opposition, he said, stressing that the opposition will come to an end if people take power, if citizens govern themselves, and if people's authority is established. He pointed out that there is no way to establish people's authority except through people's congresses and people's committees.

The leader said a return to another president means another Ceausescu yet again; another Ceausescu must not emerge again. If a cabinet is formed this means a return to another government and yet again another Ceausescu government. The people, who have made colossal sacrifices, will then lose because they will be handing their authority to a government or a president. He stressed that authority must be exercised by the people who have toppled dictatorship. The people should exercise authority right away by forming people's committee to run Romania permanently and the masses should be organized in people's committees. He stressed that people's authority must be established immediately in Romania; Romania should be transformed right away into a jamahiriyah given the fact that the republic has been abolished and it is now called only Romania. Romania should adopt the jamahiriyah political system—the state of the masses.

The brother leader asserted the need for all Romanian revolutionaries as well as friendly Romanian people to proclaim immediately the authority of the people. The Romanian people should not submit their authority once again to a president, a government, ministers, a party, or a group of parties. The one- party system has been proved a failure; it transformed itself into a dictatorship. Multiparty systems have also been proven a failure in West Europe, where demonstrations, unemployment, begging, inflation, repression, and exploitation are prevalent.

The brother leader added that the new solution lies in the people's authority and not in a one-party system, multiparty system, or a legislature. Representative government is a fraud. No one should represent the people because the people in fact exist.

The brother leader called upon Romanians to hurry and immediately form people's committees to run Romania, to be followed by people's congresses which should include all Romanian people, male and female. Romania should be an example to East Europe and the world after having paid such a high price. Romania should be the first jamahiriyah in Europe.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Revolution, affirmed: We are convinced that what is taking place in Romania, East Europe, and the whole world follows the theses of the Green Book. This is the era of the masses and that of popular revolution.

In an interview with the Yugoslav television station of Novi Sad, the brother leader said that this is the era of the masses and of popular revolution and not that of parties, neither of a single party nor of multiparty system. Nor is it the era of the individual, of the government, the legislature, the class, the army, or the police.

The brother leader of the revolution added that what is now taking place is the implementation of the universal theory at a universal level. He said we are very pleased with the popular revolution prevailing over East Europe and which will prevail over the whole world.

The brother leader (?pointed out) that it was not possible for us to be against a revolution which we (?adopted) and incited at a universal level.

With regard to the rumors spread by Western media, the brother leader said: I call for an investigation into [word indistinct] these trivial radio stations and call for the setting up of an investigative committee composed of the Jamihiriyah, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union in addition to Romania. This committe would undertake to confirm the identity of those people who were said to be [words indistinct] in hospitals in Romania. Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, said: "Our certain information is that it is the Jews who are fighting with the defunct Ceausescu regime in Romania." He explained the relationship of the former Romanian leader with his wife, who was Ceausescu's deputy. She was Jewish, and those Jews are her relatives and are considered in-laws of the former president. He confirmed that the Jews were the ones who fought on the side of Ceausescu and they were the ones who had spread the rumor that Libya was fighting on his side. The leader said it is known that Romania was the only country among all the states of East Europe who had not severed its relationship with the racist Jewish Zionist regime in Palestine since the aggression against the Arab nation. [words indistinct]

The brother leader of the universal al-Fatih revolution (?pointed out) that the repression of the masses [words indistinct]. He told the Yugoslav television station in Novi Sad that the UK, which claims to be the country of civilization and democracy, is nothing but a dictatorial country according to the Third Universal Theory [of al-Qadhdhafi's Green Book]. He then said that the masses in Britain are facing all forms of repression and that they voice their demands by staging demonstrations during which they are trampled over by horses and sprayed by (?water cannon).

He added that the British police drag British nationals along the streets to prisons without any mercy or compassion as if they were slaughtered sheep.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi indicated that the United States, which professes democracy, strongly oppresses the blacks and the red Indians and represses the non-Yankee groups there.

Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi also stated that workers in Britain, the United States, and in the entire world are wage-earners who sell their labor to governments and the owners of private companies.

At the end of this interview, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi noted that the operations of repression were not restricted to Romania but that they existed in the entire world which has not yet become a jamahiriyah, with people's authority, people's congresses, and people's committees to liberate the workers and turn them from wage-earners into partners. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared that change against the one-party system in East Europe is about to begin in accordance with the Third World theory. He said in the television interview today that Western Europe, the Soviet Union, and the whole world will witness popular changes according to nationalities and religions and that workers will become partners, not wage-earners, and that the masses will attain authority and establish popular institutions and committees. He went on to say: I am certain that this will happen in the whole world. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged workers in Romania to take over factories and become partners, not wage-earners, and set up workers' people's committees so that they may not fall once again under exploitation in the aftermath of the change in the socialist situation in Romania.

Syrian Foreign Minister Conveys Al-Asad Message

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2612200789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Dec, (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister of fraternal Syria.

Delivers Note

JN2612213889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution, concerning the Arab situation. This came when Col al-Qadhdhafi received Al-Shar' this evening. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, attended the meeting.

Al-Shar' arrived in Tripoli this afternoon, where he was received at the airport by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tripoli, and members of the Syrian mission in Tripoli.

Departs 26 Dec

LD2612212689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Faruq al-Sar', the foreign minister of fraternal Syria, left Tripoli this evening following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Talks With EEC

LD2212164889 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Here is AFRIQUE MATIN MAGAZINE now to shed some light on the ministerial Euro-Arab conference in Paris. All the foreign ministers of the Arab world are in Paris holding talks with their counterparts of the community of twelve [EEC]. Farida Ayari talks to the Libyan Foreign minister. She asked Mr Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi if he thinks he will obtain the lifting of sanctions imposed by the European Community against the supply of arms to Libya:

[Begin recording] [Al-Talhi] It is a European decision that should be made by the council of European ministers, the Community. But the conference seems to me to be an opportunity for the Arabs to express a position expressed many times in decisions made at the Arab League council of ministers; that is, every time they make a decision concerning the Arab-Europe dialogue, they always insist on the importance of lifting these sanctions.

[Ayari] What is your contribution to help your brothers in Arab countries in your cause of lifting sanctions. You are accused of being one of the main supporters of Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. Is this still the case?

[Al-Talhi] This European decision was made in 1986. You certainly know about the circumstances surrounding this decision. It is based on accusations which we regard as unjustified. Our position concerning terrorism is clear and clearly expressed. We have always been against terrorism and we think that everything should be done to combat it. As far as we are concerned, this decision is not justified. And we expressed [words indistinct] last few years our position and it seems that it is well understood by the majority of members of the community.

[Ayari] There is at the moment a small crisis between your country and France regarding the three Mirages you have not managed to get back and in revenge you closed Libyan ports to all French ships and all ships coming from France. I think Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made a speech a few days ago in which he was very hard on France and on President Mitterrand. Well, how are things with France?

[Al-Talhi] Unfortunately, I cannot say that relations between Libya and France are exellent but there are certainly certain aspects that should be... let us say dealt with. You may, perhaps, have referred to the embargo which was imposed by France. This is one of the aspects which should be dealt with.

[Ayari] Are you going to take the opportunity of your stay in France to see your French counterpart or officials in the French Foreign Ministry to try to resolve this crisis?

[Al-Talhi] I should say that this is the position: We have always expressed our political willingness to have very good relations with France. We have always regretted [words indistinct] and we don't hesitate, you know, to face dialogue and meetings in order to overcome difficulties, if there are any.

[Ayari] Well, but are you going to meet Mr Roland Dumas during your stay?

[Al-Talhi] In principle, and as far as I am concerned, I am always ready but I don't know if time will allow it, if you like.

[Ayari] Despite the resumption of your diplomatic relations, President Hissein Habre is continuing to accuse Libya of supporting some factions of the Chadian opposition, and also of arming them. These factions are reported to have operated from Sudan. What is your answer to these accusations and how are things with Chad?

[Al-Talhi] It seems that concerning our position, it was already expressed in an statement published by the bureau of external relations 2 or 3 weeks ago. I should say that dialogue is continuing within the joint commission but I should confess that it is not (?improving).

[Ayari] Hindered by what?

[Al-Talhi] By a Chadian position concerning the obstruction of the framework agreement signed last August in Algiers.

[Ayari] The last question Mr Minister: After the noisy creation of the Arab Maghreb union, one has the impression that this union is in difficulty mainly because of the stalemate on the Western Sahara problem. What is the Libyan position regarding this problem?

[Al-Talhi] One should take into account that the treaty was only signed early this year, that we have already finished with establishment of all organs. I think we have achieved something during this year, rather 10 months, it is a result. Concerning our position regarding Western Sahara, we are always in favor of the referendum. I hope [words indistinct] can be done to hold this referendum. [end recording]

PDRY

Military Committee Prepares for Sanaa Meeting

EA2112125489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] A preliminary meeting of the military legal committee from the side of the southern part of the homeland was held this morning in the Defense Ministry office under the chairmanship of Brother Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of general staff, in preparation for the unionist meeting of the joint military legal committee from the two parts of the homeland. The unionist meeting is scheduled to begin in Sanaa on 25 December.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Col Muhammad Haytham Qasim made a speech in which he touched on the historic tasks before the members of the committee, who are called on to contribute with an effective and creative spirit to the work of the joint military legal committee which will strive to draw up unified draft laws and statutes for the military and security institutions of the united state.

He said: Our presence in Sanaa will be with open hearts and true intentions for dialogue with our brothers in the joint committee, and with the aim of reaching an understanding on an ideal formula for the laws and statutes which will be conducive to regulating the most important institutions of the united state in conformity with the preservation of the interests, dignity, and security of the citizen and the sovereignty of the Yemeni homeland.

YSP Official Receives Tanzanian Party Official

EA1912184389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] This morning Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylan, deputy secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, met in his office Isa Abdullah Khamis, Central Committee member of the Tanzanian Revolutionary Party [CCM], who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting they reviewed relations between the two parties, peoples, and countries, and ways of strengthening and developing them.

Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghaylan praised the relations that bind the YSP and the Tanzanian CCM, and the growth of relations between governments and the masses of the two countries. He stressed the importance of strengthening and expanding these relations.

For his part, the Tanzanian official conveyed greetings from the Tanzanian CCM leadership to the YSP leadership, expressing his congratulations for the steps taken in order to restore the unity of the two parts of Yemen. He praised the achievements he had seen during his current visit to our country.

YSP's Mushin Meets With Mongolian Delegation

EA1912224889 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 89

[Text] This afternoon Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdullah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, met a delegation of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP], led by (Miyee Juwayn), member of the Central Committee, dean of the MPRP Party School and chairman of the Mongolian-Yemeni Friendship Society. The delegation is currently visiting our country in implementation of the protocol on party cooperation between the two friendly parties.

Brother Muhsin briefed the visiting delegation on the policy of political and economic reform going on in our country, the issue of Yemeni unity and the historic Aden unification agreement. He pointed out that Yemeni unity was a source of security and stability in the region, and a source of prosperity and good for the Yemeni people. The Mongolian party delegation expressed the political leadership's satisfaction at the level of relations between the two friendly parties and countries. The delegation briefed brother Muhsin on the latest developments in Mongolia regarding the policy of renewal.

This evening the visiting delegation made a familiarization tour of the Aden refinery. Yesterday it visited a branch of Badhib institute of scientific socialism in the Governorate of Lahij, and the agricultural nurseries at al-Hawtah.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Paris Talks

EA2112125189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The southern part will participate in the meetings of the European-Arab dialogue committee which will be held at ministerial level in the French capital, Paris, 21-22 December. Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister, left Aden this morning for Paris for this purpose.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother al-Dali expressed his happiness at participating in these meetings, which represent a good start for giving an impetus to the relations of European-Arab cooperation in various fields and for supporting the just Arab causes headed by the Palestinian cause.

He said that he will discuss with his Arab and European counterparts, on the periphery of the meetings, a number of issues pertaining to the relations of cooperation that exist with their countries. He will also discuss international issues of common interest.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Dr Sha'i Muhsin, member of the Central Committee and deputy foreign minister, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

President, Al-Bid Hold Unity Talks in Sanaa

Al-Bid Arrival Statement

JN2412143089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpts] At 1100 today, Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], arrived in Sanaa, the capital of the unity state, accompanied by a number of officials in the southern part of the homeland for a visit during which he will meet with brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, comander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and senior officials in the northern part.

This visit comes within the framework of the meetings and consultations between the leaders of the two parts and the follow-up of the implementation of the historic Aden agreement aimed at achieving national unity between the two parts of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid made a statement for SABA' in which he said: I am happy to arrive in Sanaa, the capital of the unity state. This visit is a continuation of our recent meetings following the historic Aden agreement which demands more efforts from us, the adoption of firmer steps, and the completion and guaranteeing of the implementation of the agreement as scheduled. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Working Session Held

JN2412193289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] A working session of talks has been held at the presidential palace in Sanaa, the capital of the unity state, between the leaders of the two parts of the homeland under the chairmanship of brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, in the presence of a number of officials of the Political Bureau, the Consultative Council, the Central Committee, the Standing Committee, and the governments of the two parts of the homeland.

During this meeting, the two sides discussed the results of the unionist action that was achieved through the historic Aden agreement of 30 November. They also discussed and assessed achievements through the march of unionist action. In addition, they reviewed the results of the work of the unionist committees which resumed their activities following the historic Aden agreement, and the results of the meetings, contacts, and visits recently exchanged between the officials of the popular, cooperative, and trade union sectors.

During the meeting, the two sides also discussed issues submitted to both leaderships with the objective of continuing the implementation of the historic unionist agreement, and of getting ready to take further steps to guarantee unity, whether those steps related to the draft constitution of the unity state within the framework of the practical plan to achieve all tasks included in the Aden unity agreement on the set dates, or the steps related to the continued reinforcement of the current stage being experienced by the Yemeni homeland regarding the achievement of its unity, especially since this is the most delicate of historic stages on the road to achieving the objectives of the eternal September and October revolutions.

Briefing by Ministers

JN2612164389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party, received at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa this morning brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of telecommunications and member of the Standing Committee in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Salih 'Abdallah Muthanna, minister of transport in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

During the meeting, the two ministers briefed the two leaders on their recent visits to Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Djibouti, and Somalia to explain the results of the Aden summit meeting and the unionist steps between the two parts of the Yemeni homeland in order to restore Yemeni unity. Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid voiced appreciation for the support of the leaders of these countries for efforts to restore Yemeni unity. They also stressed that Yemeni unity will be a step toward comprehensive Arab unity, will support the fateful issues of our Arab nation, and will be a factor for security and stability in the region.

Press Statement Issued

JN2612205289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Dec 89

["Text" of press statement issued at the conclusion of the meeting in Sanaa between Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee; date not given]

[Text] Proceeding from the resolutions of the historic Aden agreement; in response to the will of the Yemeni people; proceeding from the creative manifestation of national duties, foremost of which was referring the draft constitution of the unity state to the two legislative authorities in the two parts and implementing the process of a popular referendum; out of the concern of the political leaderships of the two parts to strengthen the spirit of confidence and fraternal unity work and to take practical, firm, and well- considered steps to implement the Aden unity agreement, the following measures have been decreed:

1. Summit meetings should be scheduled regularly to oversee the procedures concerning implementation of the agreement and follow up on the constitutional measures to coordinate stands on the draft constitution of the unity state in the People's and Shura Councils, as well as measures of organizing a referendum on it and on the results of the various leading unity bodies, in addition to dealing with any new developments or issues in the way of unity work.

2. The cabinets of both parts are assigned to hold joint meetings and set a unified work plan to achieve the following:

a. Look into the results of the unity committees and take the necessary measures to execute those results.

b. Submit a proposal on the merging of ministries, institutions, concerns, and the various organs in the two parts and follow up on the specialized committees formed within the framework of unity action to continue the duties entrusted to the committees to unite the laws and regulations that organize activity within the unity state and set priorities within this field.

c. Start a detailed study on the experience in both parts in the economic, political, social, and educational fields and in the field of democratic practice to deduce the positive aspects of the experience in both parts while preserving the achievements of 26 September and 14 October, work toward entrenching and developing them within the unity state, and prepare and discuss the comprehensive reform program for the unity state.

d. Prepare the draft law for the new elections and the process of holding the popular referendum on the unity state's draft constitution and organize the election period, measures, and law on political organizations in light of the political directions approved by the political leadership in both parts in accordance with the constitution.

e. Take quick measures to remove obstacles to the free travel of citizens in all parts of the land and cancel the customs restrictions hampering this.

f. Work quickly to unite laws and regulations ordering rights and personal freedoms of the citizen in all parts of the homeland to preserve the dignity of the Yemeni person, ensure the sovereignty of the law over the state, and broaden democratic participation and freedom of expression in public life.

3. Proceeding from the spirit of the unity atmosphere and stemming from the essence of the historic Aden agreement, which has inaugurated a new stage in national action, the two leaders declare comprehensive and general amnesty for all Yemeni citizens who have been subjected to measures as a result of their political activity where this includes public rights, ending all revenge demands, and entrusting the cabinet in both parts to take the necessary measures to implement this.

4. The political organization committee has been entrusted with achieving the following:

a. The draft of the basic trend for the law on political organizations.

b. The draft of the basic trend for the election law.

c. The draft of the national charter.

d. Organizing dialogue with the national organizations and personalities and involving them in discussing the drafts mentioned above.

e. Preparing a draft project which defines the stand of the Armed Forces concerning political action within the unity state.

Memorandum Asks UN To Mediate Soldiers' Release

JN2212202189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, 22 Dec (INA)—Iraq has requested the UN secretary general to mediate with the Iranian side to release three Iraqi soldiers who were kidnapped by Iranian forces in the no-man's land on 14 December.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general, Iraq said that the Iranian forces kidnapped the unarmed Iraqi soldiers who were on their way to a spring 250 meters from their defensive positions and 1 km from the Iranian positions.

The memorandum warned the Iranian side against repeating such an act of piracy and said that such acts constitute serious violations of the cease-fire, do not serve the peace process under the patronage of the UN secretary general, and clearly demonstrate Iran's hostile intentions toward Iraq.

Ministry Protests Death of Prisoners in Iran

JN2212203289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, 22 Dec (INA)—Iraq has expressed its deep concern over the circumstances that led to the death of 22 Iraqi prisoners in Iranian camps.

This is stated in a memorandum the Iraqi Foreign Ministry sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. Copies of the memo were sent to the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general.

The Iraqi memorandum explains that the death cases referred to in the ICRC memorandum on 6 December arouse the astonishment of the Iraqi Government and its doubts regarding the causes of death of this large number of Iraqi prisoners. It stresses that the causes of death presented by the Iranian authorities, heart attacks and disease, are insufficient.

The Iraqi memorandum points out that Article 130 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 on prisoners of war requires further clarification of the causes of death and the surrounding circumstances, such as examples of death certificates, in addition to details related to the subject of observation of the prisoner by a doctor, nurse, clergyman, or a colleague prisoner with the signature of two witnesses on the death certificate.

In its memorandum, the Foreign Ministry stresses Iraq's strong protest against the Iranian regime's continued inhuman practices against the Iraqi prisoners. It calls on the ICRC to take urgent and immediate measures to pressure the Iranian regime to force it to stop these inhuman practices and to provide full details of the causes of death.

Reportage on Tariq 'Aziz' Visit to France

Meets Douglas Hurd

JN2212145389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and issues listed on the agenda of the Euro-Arab dialogue conference.

Comments on POW's, Lebanon

JN2212163489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that the issue of the prisoners of war between Iraq and Iran is not a political issue and should not be discussed at political negotiations, but that it is a humanitarian issue subject to agreements that should be respected.

In an interview published by the newspaper LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS today, the foreign minister said that according to these agreements, the prisoners of war should be released without preconditions soon after military operations have ceased. He added that military operations ceased on 20 August 1988, and that the International Committee of the Red Cross called for the release of the prisoners of war, but Iran rejected this, preferring to play them as a card during negotiations, disregarding the Geneva conventions.

The foreign minister pointed out that the withdrawal of forces is a basic issue. He said: We have informed the UN secretary general that our forces' withdrawal should be discussed, along with the issue of our sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab, because it has been an Iraqi passageway throughout history. In light of this, we cannot agree to discuss the issue of linking the Iraqi withdrawal with the release of prisoners of war.

Regarding the Iranian side's demand to implement the Algiers agreement, the foreign minister said: The Algiers agreement included commitments by the two sides. However, Iran violated this agreement. Therefore, we considered it as abrogated since February 1979 when the Iranians did not respect their commitments; consequently, Iraq's respect for its commitments was no longer justified. In light of this, we should negotiate to conclude a new agreement.

Regarding the great Iraqi achievement of launching the al-'Abid rocket, Tariq 'Aziz said: All our Arab brothers have congratulated us on this success, because the existence of a strong Iraq is a factor of stability in the region. He added: However, regarding the Zionist reaction, we were not surprised by it because the Israelis seek to have supremacy in the scientific progress in our region.

About the situation in Lebanon, the foreign minister said that the current major issue is foreign occupation, and as long as this issue is unresolved, the Lebanese Government will not be free in running Lebanese affairs. He added: We hope that this problem will be resolved and that Lebanon's sovereignty and national unity will be respected. We have supported General 'Awn's efforts to liberate Lebanon from the Syrian, Israeli, and Iranian occupiers. We also support all Lebanese who seek to liberate their homeland.

On the al-Ta'if agreement, Tariq 'Aziz said: The Al-Ta'if agreement was the result of sincere efforts by three Arab countries to reach a solution. However, this agreement was not accepted by all the Lebanese, at least regarding the presence of foreign forces.

Concerning arms supplies to Gen 'Awn, the foreign minister said: We stopped supplying him with arms since we announced our commitment to the Arab tripartite committee.

Talks With Roland Dumas

JN2212175089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Roland Dumas, French minister of foreign affairs.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between Iraq and France, issues of common interest, and Euro-Arab cooperation.

Conveys Greetings to Mitterrand

JN2212194389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 22 Dec (INA)—French President Francois Mitterrand received Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the Elysee Palace today.

Tariq 'Aziz told an INA correspondent in Paris that he conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Mitterrand, and his good wishes for the continuation of the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and France, as well as his appreciation of France's initiative in organizing the Euro-Arab dialogue conference.

Addresses Euro-Arab Conference

JN2312172589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 23 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has termed the Euro-Arab dialogue conference useful and successful. The conference, 'Aziz added, has laid solid ground for the continuation of a Euro-Arab dialogue and cooperation between Arab and European groups in the fields agreed upon.

In a statement to the INA correspondent, 'Aziz said that the level of understanding was good despite the existence of disagreements and that this conference will give a new impetus to Euro-Arab dialogue.

Deputizing for the Arab foreign ministers, the foreign minister yesterday spoke to the delegates on the situation between Iraq and Iran. 'Aziz underlined the desire of Iraq and the Arabs to establish peace on the basis of the UN Charter and international law.

'Aziz added: After the cease-fire, the Arab group confirmed its desire to achieve peace. This was demonstrated in the Casablanca summit resolutions. The foreign minister reiterated that the Arab group and Iraq will abide by Resolution No 598 and noted that this resolution is meant to be a peace plan and should be interpreted and implemented accordingly. Following is the text of Tariq 'Aziz' speech:

It is my personal pleasure, as well as that of a representative of the Iraqi Government, to participate in this important meeting between the Arab and European groups. We hope that this conference will be a starting point for further cooperation and understanding. I want to express my appreciation for the invitation made by the French Government, French President Francois Mitterrand, and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, and for their generous hopspitality.

The Arab foreign ministers have entrusted me with discussing the situation between Iraq and Iran, because the Arab League states' stand on this issue is well known. During the years of this conflict, the Arab summits adopted many resolutions, beginning with the Fes summit, Casablanca summit, Amman summit, and ending with the Algiers summit in 1988. Similar decisions were made by the Arab League Council. During the period preceding the cease-fire, the Arab and European groups maintained a good level of contacts. We have also asserted the sincere desire of the Arab group and Iraq to establish peace on the basis of the UN Charter and international law.

Following the cease-fire resolution, the Arab group made its position known on the establishment of peace, and the Casablanca summit resolution in this respect is clear.

The European nations are interested in peace between Iraq and Iran. For our part, we recognize the EC efforts and the role of France, Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, and Italy in drafting the 1987 UN Security Council Resolution 598 when they were members of the UN body. Our expectations from the EC stem from our desire for an enduring, comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and stability in the Arabian Gulf.

I would like to stress the following:

1. The Arab group and Iraq assert their commitment to Resolution 598.

2. Resolution 598 amounts to a peace plan and ought to be understood and applied as such.

3. It is hoped that the EC will pursue its efforts on behalf of comprehensive peace. We submit that meaningful, direct talks under the auspices of the UN secretary general as stated by his letter dated 8 August 1988 assume a special importance and that such talks are necessary for the attainment of the requisite understanding for implementing Resolution 598 and achieving comprehensive peace between the two countries and in the region. We assert the importance of the role played by Javier Perez de Cuellar, hail his efforts, and urge that they be pursued.

4. Our Arab group understands the desire of the EC to set up normal ties with Iran. However, care should be taken lest any form of cooperation in any area between the EC and Iran be construed as encouragement for Iran not to pursue peace or normalize relations with Arab countries but to continue its irresponsible policies in the region.

5. The tragedy of the 100,000 Iraqi and Iranian prisoners of war ought to be ended under Article 118 of the 1949 Third Geneva Convention and Paragraph 3 of Resolution 598. Release of the prisoners should have begun in August 1988. This has failed to materialize due to Iran's refusal. It is hoped that the EC will put its weight behind this effort to end the tragedy in keeping with international law and the 1949 Geneva Convention to which we have pledged ourselves. We call for the prisoners of war issue not to be linked with the outcome of bilateral negotiations that are governed by a different set of considerations, lest the prisoners become political pawns. Only direct talks sponsored by the UN secretary general, and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598, can settle all political issues.

Ramadan Leaves for Amman Joint Committee Meetings

JN2712112489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, left for Amman today at the head of a delegation to attend the meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian higher joint committee due to begin in Amman today, Wednesday.

The delegation includes Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah, Trade and Acting Finance Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, and a number of officials.

Medical Aid to Bucharest at Romania's Request

TA2612205389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Speaking in Beersheba tonight, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that an Israel Air Force plane will leave tomorrow morning for Romania. The plane will be carrying 8 tons of medicines for the Romanian people. Foreign Ministry sources noted that two Israeli physicians will accompany the supplies.

Our correspondent in the south Roni Sofer points out that the Foreign Ministry had made it clear that the aid is being sent at the request of the Romanian Foreign Ministry, which has resumed normal activity and is in direct touch with the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest.

Cargo Plane Departs

TA2712083989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] A Hercules cargo plane carrying the medical aid expedition to Romania is now taking off for Bucharest. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the plane is loaded with 6 tons of medical supplies, medicines, bandages, and blood plasma. Two surgeons will be on the plane: Dr Erez Ilan and Dr Ludwig Kraus, both doctors at Me'ir Hospital in Kefar Sava. Additional doctors and nurses will leave on later flights.

Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said that the expedition of the delegation is meant to express Israel's clear identification with the struggle of the Romanian people. He pointed out that many doctors, particularly those of Romanian origin, volunteered to join the team.

Arens Supports Romanians, U.S. Panama Policy

TA2712071989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Israel hesitated in recognizing the new government in Romania due to its concern for the Jewish community there. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens made this statement yesterday in Beersheba. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports:

While visiting Beersheba, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens let it be known that it was the transitional government in Romania which had approached the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest with a request for assistance. Incidentally, Foreign Ministry sources yesterday spoke of the possible resumption of El Al flights to Romania as of this morning.

Minister Arens said that Israel's caution in expressing its support for the struggle of the Romanian people was necessary out of concern for the fate of the Romanian Jewish community. Arens asserted, however, that there is no doubt of the fact that Israel, a democratic country, supports the Romanian people's struggle against a tyrannical regime.

Foreign Minister Arens pointed out that the Romanian Foreign Ministry maintains regular contact with the Israeli Embassy in Bucharest. He added that the Israeli ambassador in Romania is in contact with the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and Israel will not call on the Romanian ambassador in Israel to resubmit his credentials.

Speaking about the U.S. invasion of Panama, Arens supported the U.S. Administration's policy of deposing the dictator Noriega. The foreign minister added that he does not have any details on the involvement of Mike Harari, the former Mosad operative, in aiding General Noriega. Addressing the contradiction between the U.S. invasion of Panama and the criticism voiced by the United States of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, the foreign minister preferred not to get into polemics on this matter. The foreign minister evaded the issue diplomatically by saying that there had been many U.S. officials who supported Israel's actions at the time.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 27 December carries a similar report on page 3 by Ayelet Mazor quoting Arens as saying: "I was in on the contacts that led to the purchase of oil from Iran. We thought the Iranians could have an influence on our prisoners' situation. In fact, we recently learned that the Israeli navigator is being held prisoner by Iranian forces in Lebanon. We did not report these contacts to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and its Intelligence Subcommittee because we wanted to ensure the secrecy of this information and because we feared for the lives of our prisoners. Ultimately, our efforts to keep the contacts secret failed."]

Shamir Congratulates Bush on 'Success' in Panama

TA2612184889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today telephoned President Bush and congratulated him on the success of the United States in restoring democracy to Panama. The Prime Minister's Office says Shamir and Bush discussed the situation in Eastern Europe and, in particular, Romania. Shamir expressed the view that the developments there would strengthen the position of the United States and the free world.

President Bush expressed the hope that the events in Eastern Europe would have a positive effect on Israel's interests in that part of the world.

Shamir and Bush also reviewed the situation in the Middle East. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 26 December adds that "the two expressed the hope that progress would be made in the political process in the Middle East."]

Ambassador Ordered to Panama; Embassy Reopens

TA2712092889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Dec 89 p 12

[Report by New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli, political correspondent Shim‘on Schiffer, and Washington correspondent Rami Tal]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Foreign Ministry has ordered the Israeli ambassador to Panama, who has been staying in New York for the past 3 months, to return to Panama in the aftermath of Noriega's overthrow.

Ambassador Re‘uven Ben-Eli‘ezer was "pulled out" of Panama in September, officially to help the Israeli UN delegation. In fact, the move was intended "to lower the profile" of relations with the Noriega administration.

The new Israeli move actually implies recognition of the new government. The Israeli Embassy in Panama City reopened yesterday for the first time since the U.S. invasion. Approached last night, Ben-Eli‘ezer refused to comment on the report. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Announcement on Consulates ‘Any Day’

TA2012132989 Tel Aviv HA‘ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 89 p 1

[By Ilan Shehori and Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Bulgaria is expected to announce the resumption of consular and economic relations with Israel in the next few days. For the moment, however, Sofia wants to avoid renewing full diplomatic ties, opting for gradual rapprochement instead.

Constant contacts have recently been held between Jerusalem and Sofia. Before the latest developments in Eastern Europe, it did not look like the Bulgarians would agree to any form of ties with Israel, which were severed after the 6-Day War. Lately, however, contacts with Bulgaria have taken a turn.

Recent talks held between Israeli officials and senior representatives of the Bulgarian Government gave rise to the understanding that the latter may be expected to issue an announcement on the renewal of consular relations between the two countries, as a first stage, any day.

Jerusalem has recently held low-level contacts with GDR echelons, mainly against the backdrop of the declaration made by some leaders in Berlin about their willingness to assume responsibility for their role in the Holocaust. Political sources in Jerusalem reemphasized last night that despite these contacts, it does not look like full diplomatic relations between the two countries will be established in the near future.

One week before the landing of the scheduled special charter flight from Bulgaria for Christmas (due to arrive on 27 December), no tickets for the Balkan Air passengers have arrived in Israel yet. An El Al subsidiary, Sun Dor, is expecting the tickets today.

The Bulgarian airline will conduct two special flights to Israel, the second of which is scheduled to arrive on 3 January. The plan is for the plane to bring tourists from Sofia next week and to carry Israeli tourists on its way back. One week later it is scheduled to bring the Israeli tourists home and get the Bulgarians after their visit to Israel.

Even though the ticketing was done by travel agents, the flight tickets for the passengers have not yet arrived. Ze‘ev Livne, Sun Dor director general, said yesterday that the Bulgarian airline explained that the special flights to and from Israel will be held as scheduled despite the events in the Eastern bloc, including Bulgaria.

The special flights are planned to be the precursors of regular charter flights between the two countries toward the next spring and summer tourist seasons.

Desmond Tutu Arrives, Leaves for Jerusalem

TA2212143389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Desmond Tutu, the black archbishop from the Republic of South Africa, arrived in Israel a short while ago and together with his entourage managed to evade waiting journalists and leave for Jerusalem. This was reported by our correspondent Rafi Shalhin.

‘Real Motives’ of Egyptian-Syrian Accord Viewed

JN1912202489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 19 Dec 89

["Observation" by ‘Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: The recent relaxation in Syrian-Egyptian relations, which has gone as far as a telephone conversation between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad and the Egyptian information minister being received by the Syrian president in Damascus this week, may raise questions as to whether the causes of Syria's estrangement with Egypt, initiated by Syria 12 years ago, have been removed. What has changed? Has there been a change in the policy of Cairo, or has the change been in the policy of Damascus?

From the very beginning, Damascus declared, and continued to declare throughout the years of its estrangement with Egypt, that it would not accept a reconciliation unless Egypt abrogated its peace treaty with Israel. However, Egypt under both al-Sadat and Mubarak stood firmly against this and adhered to its principled positions and adopted the peace policy as a firm strategy. This was based on the belief that peace is a higher vital interest, not only for the Egyptian people, but also for all Arab peoples.

Thus, since Egypt did not abrogate the peace treaty with Israel, there must have been some development or change in the policy of al-Asad's Syria that led to the recent easing in Egyptian-Syrian relations. Damascus and its media are trying to portray the matter as a requirement or a pressing need for Arab solidarity. What is certain, however, is that the Damascus rulers did not discover Arab solidarity and its advantages only now, 12 years late.

Of course, those who expect the Damascus rulers to openly reveal the real motives for abandoning their arrogance, descending from the high tree they have climbed, and going along the road of reconciliation with Egypt are very naive. Nevertheless, these Syrian motives are virtually exposed. They can be summed up by saying that Syria and its economic and domestic problems, and the fact that it is up to its ears in the Lebanese quagmire, have for a long time been in need of Egypt. Syria's need for Egypt far outweighs Egypt's need for Syria, especially after all other Arab countries officially returned to Egypt's side. But perhaps the more pressing motive lies in the fact that Syria has been suffering from suffocating isolation in the Arab world, so much so that it finds no position or weight in three regional Arab blocs totalling 15 Arab countries; that is, three-fourths of the Arab countries. These groupings are the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Arab Cooperation Council.

Some observers believe that Syria's inclination toward reconciliation with Egypt can also be attributed to the Damascus rulers' desire to weaken the alliance, the strong bonds between Egypt and Iraq. At any rate, peace lovers cannot but hope that Syria's inclination toward reconciliation with Egypt is a sincere step in the interests of genuine Arab solidarity and in service of the hoped-for peace in our region, not an opportunistic tactic after which Syria will revert to its old habits.

High Court Reverses Military Court Ruling

TA2512091589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Dec 89 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] In a unanimous ruling against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the High Court of Justice yesterday said that Colonel Yehuda Me'ir must be tried in a military court for allegedly issuing an order for troops to beat 20 Palestinians from the villages of Huwwarah and Bayta in January 1989.

The ruling marked the first time that the High Court had moved against the IDF judge-advocate general and ordered the IDF to open legal proceedings against a soldier. No officer of Me'ir's rank has been tried for misconduct during the intifada.

The High Court rejected the argument of the judge-advocate general, Amnon Strassnoff, who said that Me'ir should not face a military court on charges of aggravated assault. Strassnoff said Me'ir had already suffered enough by being subjected to a disciplinary hearing and by being relieved of his command.

The court also rejected Strasnoff's contention that Me'ir should be absolved of guilt because orders during the start of the intifada were "unclear."

On January 19 and 21, 1988, Me'ir allegedly ordered soldiers to take Palestinian activists from the two villages and break their limbs with clubs. The Palestinians, who did not resist arrest, were bound hand and foot, gagged and beaten. Me'ir was the IDF commander of the Nabulus area at the time. In May 1989, Me'ir faced a disciplinary hearing and was relieved of all command.

In the opinion of Justice Moshe Bejski: "These actions outrage every civilized person, and no lack of clarity can cover this up. Certainly, if the order is given by a senior officer, this officer must be aware that the morality of the IDF forbids such behaviour."

Bejski said the professional sanction of losing his command did not mean that Me'ir was exempt from the more serious criminal charge, in a military court, of aggravated assault.

If convicted in a military court, Me'ir waould face a maximum charge of 20 years' imprisonment. [passage omitted]

Eighty-six soldiers have faced military charges for misconduct since the start of the intifada.

Trial of Hamas Leader Yasin To Begin 31 Dec

TA2212114489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 89 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] It was decided yesterday that the trial of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin will begin on 31 December. The trial will take place in a special hall belonging to the Health Ministry at the Erez checkpoint.

Senior military sources said that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops would guard the hall during the trial and would restrict entrance to the media, attorneys, and international observers. [passage omitted]

The trials of the other eight Hamas leaders who were Yasin's deputies, including Muhammad Shirahta, head of the gang that murdered soldiers Avi Sasportas and Ilan Sa'adon, will open on Sunday. [passage omitted]

Masked Assailants Hijack, Burn Bus Carrying Arabs

TA2612072089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Masked individuals this morning took over an Israeli bus driving Arab laborers from Janin to Haifa. Brandishing an ax, they forced the driver to pull off the road, made the passengers get off at the village of Zalafa near Megiddo Junction, and set the bus on fire. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that policemen and Border Police personnel have set out in pursuit of the masked assailants.

Update on Violent Incidents in Territories

3 Killed 22 Dec

TA2212201989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Three people were killed in the territories today in clashes between Arab residents and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. [passage omitted]

The hospital in Ramallah reported that a 15-year-old youth was killed and eight other residents were injured by IDF gunfire when soldiers were attacked by youths, some of them masked, who hurled stones at the troops. A local youth was killed in al-Birah after he was struck by plastic bullets. Gaza Strip residents reported 10 people were wounded this evening during violent confrontations with soldiers. [passage omitted]

The body of a 23-year-old woman was discovered in Nabulus today. The police are investigating the circumstances of the incident.

2 Die in Rafah; Gaza Schools Closed

TA2312205689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Two Arab residents of Rafah were killed today. Military sources reported that a 22-year-old youth was shot when IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops encountered a group of masked men.

Arab residents in Rafah reported that another local 17-year-old youth was shot in the chest by soldiers. The IDF is investigating this report.

The residents added that the bodies of the two youths were snatched from the hospital and that over 20 residents were injured in the Gaza Strip.

The commander of the Southern Command today ordered the closure of 11 schools in the Gaza Strip. Most of the schools were operated by UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency]. They were closed following riots and stone-throwing incidents that took place in these schools lately. Approximately 20 schools out of about 250 are currently closed in the Gaza Strip.

25 Dec Reports on Casualties

TA2512111789

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, in a report by Mikhal Sela' on page 8 of its 25 December issue, says that "in scattered incidents in the territories, 25 Palestinians were reportedly shot and wounded yesterday including seven in the Nabulus casbah following a demonstration by women, some of whom paraded masked in kaffiyehs.

"The army confirmed the reports of injuries in Nabulus and also said that three Palestinians had been wounded in the Gaza Strip.

"Palestinian sources, meanwhile, said the Gaza figure was much higher and that five Palestinians were wounded during clashes with troops in Jabalyah refugee camp, while two more were wounded in Gaza City, two in Bayt Lahiyah, and one in Khan Yunus.

"Military sources confirmed only two wounded in Gaza City along with a third in Rafah during a military operation against masked Palestinians. Palestinians reported eight wounded in the operation.

"In the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, Palestinian sources claimed that more identity cards were confiscated in violation of a recent High Court of Justice decision forbidding their confiscation as a means of pressuring the Arab population."

The cards were confiscated "as a means of getting" members of al-Nusayrat families "to cut down fruit trees that had been used as cover for stone-throwing, the sources said. Troops ordered the trees cut along the Khan Yunus-Gaza road and told the Palestinians that unless they uprooted the trees, they would have to pay for a tractor, dispatched by the military authorities, to destroy the trees." The army was reportedly investigating the matter.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 25 December in a report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin on page 2 adds that "two Molotov cocktails were hurled at an Israeli bus near the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The driver of a No 160 bus was slightly injured yesterday near Halhul by a stone thrown at the bus. The driver of an Israeli cab sustained slight injuries yesterday at Haruz Junction in Hebron."

The report adds that "local disturbances were recorded in the Gaza Strip yesterday. A curfew was imposed on Rafah during the morning hours, but it was later lifted."

Dani Rubinstein and Dani Tzidqoni, reporting on page 2 of the 25 December issue of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew, maintain that "all was relatively quiet in the West Bank yesterday, with shops staying open in the afternoon as well to allow for Christmas shopping." They add that "a curfew was imposed on the refugee camps in the Bethlehem area to prevent disturbances on Christmas. A partial strike was observed in Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, and Bayt Sahur, in accordance with the instructions of the local committees, but the shops remained open all day on Saturday for the holiday. The 2-day curfew on Ramallah and al-Birah was lifted."

A front-page report by On Levi and Yitzhaq Meridor in the same paper adds that "a curfew was imposed yesterday on Zayta" in the Tulkarm region to allow for searches for the possible murderers of Moshe Efrayim, "a 60-year-old

Israeli civilian who was found dead in his car on a banana plantation belonging to Kibbutz Maggal."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 25 December, in a report by ITIM and Ayelet Mazor on page 2, adds that "the strike forces in the Gaza Strip has sent a hail of threatening letters to the Civil Administration's department of motor vehicle licensing officials, calling them to resign in a week." According to that report, "As'ad al-Saftawi, a prominent Gaza Strip leader, condemned the letters."

Gazans Request Curfew

TA2612110289

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 26 December carries a report by Mikhal Sela' on page 12 on 26 Palestinians "shot and wounded" by "troops" in the territories "yesterday, according to Palestinian sources." She notes that "military sources did not have reports on injuries." Later, she reports that "in Gaza yesterday there were intensive clashes in Jabalyah refugee camp, where 10 people were slightly wounded, according to Gaza hospital records. Three more were wounded in al-Shati' and three in Rafah, despite the curfew that was still in effect there. One more was wounded in Gaza city."

Also, "in the village of al-Janiyah, near Ramallah, one Palestinian was slightly wounded in a clash sparked by a military operation in the village." Meanwhile, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 26 December notes that "the man was seriously wounded and transferred to a hospital where he later died of his wounds." The POST report adds that "four other Palestinians in Ramallah and two in Nabulus were also wounded, according to Palestinian sources."

In another report on the same page by Robert Rees, THE JERUSALEM POST says that "Jerusalem police yesterday arrested a young man suspected of tossing a petrol bomb at two cars parked" on a side street near the city's Zion Square, located at the center of West Jerusalem, "early in the morning. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. In another incident, the police last night combed the area near the pedestrian passageway" also in the center of town "after a petrol bomb was found" nearby.

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 26 December, in a report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er on page 2, adds that the Army imposed a curfew on Rafah in the morning hours of 25 December, but lifted it in the afternoon. The two also note that "almost no violent incidents were recorded in the West Bank yesterday" although "the authorities have informed the mukhtar of al-Dik in the Tulkarm area that for the next 6 months locals will not be given exit permits for Jordan. This comes in reaction to the incident 2 days ago in which the residents blocked the entrances to the village and hurled rocks on a Civil Administration vehicle that was making its way to the village." Additionally, in accordance with a "new regulation laying the responsibility for the erasure of graffiti on walls on the owners of the homes," a 350-shekel fine or a prison term to become effective in 14 days was imposed yesterday "for the first time" on a Balatah refugee camp resident for scribbling nationalistic slogans. Also, the Army confirmed yesterday that "it had uprooted nearly 300 olive trees near the village of Bayt Umrin in the Nabulus area, since this was the place from where rocks were habitually thrown at vehicles passing along the way."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 26 December, in a report by Mikhal Qedem on page 2, notes that "in an unprecedented move, residents of the southern part of the Gaza Strip had approached the Civil Administration, asking it to impose a general curfew during Palestinian memorial days. The request, relayed via notables, says that they thereby want to lower the level of violence in the Gaza Strip and protect the children. Sources in the Civil Administration confirmed the report and said that they would take a positive attitude toward it."

IDF Gives Totals on Casualties

TA2712102689 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 27 Dec 89 p 8

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 25 December 1989, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 545 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 694.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 838 fatalities, with the following breakdown:
—611 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—82 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—57 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—88 fatalities from other causes.

HA'ARETZ Reviews Israeli Arabic Publications

TA1712184089

[Editorial report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 17 December carries on page 11 an article by 'Atallah Mansur on the current state of Arabic-language publications in Israel.

Citing the Interior Ministry director general as saying that he "does not know the exact number of these publications," Mansur says that "dozens of licenses" for publications have still been granted. Although newspapers were closed in Nazareth in two instances in the past, he says, "more than 30 licenses have been issued over the last 2 years."

Mansur says that "most of the papers could be classified as leftist in nature." He says that the most regularly issued papers are those of RAKAH, the New Communist List, of which AL-ITTIHAD is the only Arabic daily. This daily claims a distribution of some 10,000 copies, Mansur says, adding that its veteran editor, Emil Habibi, was recently replaced by Salim Jubran.

Mansur notes that RAKAH also publishes a "popular youth monthly, AL-RA'D (TOMORROW); a literary monthly, AL-JADID (THE NEW); an ideological quarterly, AL-DARB (THE ROAD); and another literary quarterly called "48." He says that another publication issued in 'Akko, the weekly AL-'ARABI, as well as other magazines, "generally repeat ideas and assessments acceptable to the communists."

Mansur says that the Progressive List for Peace issues a weekly called AL-WATAN (THE HOMELAND), which is distributed for free, and a literary monthly, AL-MURAQIB, and that for over a month the Abna' al-Balad Movement has been issuing a new weekly, AL-MAYDAN (RACE COURSE), "after their previous organ, AL-RAYA, was closed."

He notes that until the last Knesset elections, the Arab Democratic Party and the United Workers Party each issued small weeklies and that the Histadrut has an irregular publication in Arabic printed in Tel Aviv, explaining Histadrut activities.

Mansur says that two apolitical monthlies appeared on the market last year, "one dealing with art and culture and the other with computers." 'ABIR (PERFUME), a women's magazine published in East Jerusalem, is another novelty, he says.

Mansur notes that the Islamic Movement has a monthly, AL-SIRAH (THE PATH), and a weekly, while the Greek Catholic Church "continues publishing its old-time monthly AL-RABITAH," while an opposition movement to the Catholic leadership began issuing a competing monthly, AL-KALIMAH (THE WORD).

Mansur says that "another novelty are local newspapers," which are published in Triangle villages. He notes that one such paper is a bimonthly on religious-cultural issues, AL-MINBAR, edited by Dr Ahmad Hibi from the village of Kabul, and that another noteworthy publication is QADA'I, edited by Dr Mahmud Muharib.

He says that "an attempt to publish an intellectual quarterly is being made by Dr Ahmad al-Taybi," who has gained publicity thanks to an opinion poll among Hebrew University Arab students which he commissioned recently.

Mansur says that only three weeklies are actually on sale in Israel, one of which is AL-MAYDAN, which has been issued only three times and which has a very small circulation. He observes that "more popular" is the Islamic Movement's SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH, but that the most noteworthy of the three is AL-SINARA, which has been distributed for free in Nazareth for the past 8 years. He says that competing with AL-SINARA is yet another weekly, KUL AL-'ARAB, which is also distributed free in Nazareth.

Mansur then attempts to estimate the distribution of the papers and magazines. He notes that as most are either distributed free or to subscribers it is hard to provide a reliable count.

Regarding the penetration of East Jerusalem papers into Israel, Mansur says that the East Jerusalem publication AL-QUDS has been able to sell "some 500 copies daily in Nazareth," while other East Jerusalem papers "sell only a few copies in Nazareth," while, in contrast, "over 2,000 Hebrew newspapers are being sold daily in Nazareth."

'Responsible Source' Welcomes Romanian Events

JN2612134889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] In Amman, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that the Jordanian Government welcomes the stabilization of the new conditions in Romania and the appointment by the National Salvation Front of a president of the republic and a new government. The source said that while expressing its respect for the friendly Romanian people's right to manifest their will by choosing the democratic system, the Jordanian Government looks for continued relations of cooperation and friendship between the Jordanian and Romanian peoples based on mutual respect and joint interests.

The source added that Jordan regrets the human losses sustained over the past few days and that at His Majesty King Husayn's instructions, the Jordanian Government will dispatch medicine and assistance as an expression of solidarity with the Romanian people at this stage.

Cabinet Curtails Powers of Military Courts

JN2612204189 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Upon the instructions of his majesty the king and as a step on the way of abrogating martial law, the cabinet decided at a session headed by the prime minister, Mr Mudar Badran, this evening to amend martial law regulations by taking a number of crimes out of the purview of military courts and placing them under the purview of civilian courts. These crimes include: Violations involving the firearms law, violations involving the law on anticommunism, violations involving affiliation with a dissolved or unlicensed political party, violations involving defense orders, assault on civil servants or armed forces or police members, violations of orders issued by the military governor general or local military governors, using firearms at weddings in populated areas even if the firearms were licensed, forfeiture of banknotes, crimes related to violations of the passport law, homicide and attempted murder, and crimes violating the supply law.

A ministerial committee has been formed to look into crimes involving the security of the state and economic, fianancial, and monetary crimes. The committee will report its findings to the cabinet within 2 months, together with its recommendations on how to deal with the situation arising from the full abrogation of martial law regulations. The committee will be headed by the interior minister and will have as members the ministers of finance and justice, the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, the chief of the Legislation Bureau, and the legal adviser at the prime minister's office.

Another ministerial committee was formed to look into the developmental and personal consequences arising from Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank. The committee will take the necessary measures to facilitate the living conditions and to boost the steadfastness of residents of the occupied territories without changing the substance of the decision.

CBJ Announces New Commercial Exchange Rate

JN1512202489 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] The Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] said today it would provide foreign currency to commercial banks and licensed financial companies at a rate of 675 fils per dollar. A memorandum to this effect was issued by the Central Bank today. It notified the concerned banks and companies to adhere to a selling rate of 680 fils per dollar without charging their clients any commission while meeting their demands for the purchase of nonessential items. The Central Bank decision is part of its policy to monitor the foreign currency exchange in the country and work towards firming the dinar's exchange rate.

Popular Committee To Increase Aid to Intifadah

JN2512084989 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Since its creation in Jordan in 1988 the Popular Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Intifada collected JD2.3 million in donations and most of the amount has reached families of martyrs in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the committee is doubling its efforts to raise additional funds, acording to Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, the committee's secretary general.

The number of martyrs and the wounded in the course of the intifada which broke out in December 1987 is on the rise, and the committee is expected to need more and more funds to meet its commitments, al-'Abbadi said in a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B Arabic daily.

He said the committee had been paying JD1,000 to the family of each martyr and JD200 each to the families of the wounded in the uprising.

Al-'Abbadi, who is also president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), said that doctors in the occupied West Bank were being assisted by JMA. There are about 1,500 Arab doctors in the occupied West Bank and they are all members of the JMA and committed to its laws and regulations, al-'Abbadi said.

He said that the JMA paid JD62,000 in aid to the West Bank doctors since the start of the intifada and was helping them to continue their post-graduate studies to get specialisation in various fields.

The JMA, the oldest association in Jordan, has a total of 8,888 registered doctors and specialists, including those in the West Bank.

The JMA is continually taking measures to the conditions its members [as published] in the occupied territories at all levels, al-'Abbadi said. He said that provision had been made for pension for doctors, including those of the West Bank.

In addition, the JMA is trying hard to find work for unemployed doctors in the Kingdom and abroad, al-'Abbadi said.

The JMA, he explained, is seeking to appoint a doctor for each school, community college, factory and other institutions. It is also offering soft loans to doctors to help them start clinics and is finding employment for Jordanian doctors and specialists in Libya and North Yemen.

Al-'Abbadi said that the unemployment problem among Jordanian doctors was being gradually settled.

Al-Huss Submits Memorandum to Paris Conference

NC2212155789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The Arab-European dialogue conference is continuing in Paris. Lebanon is represented at the conference by Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Information Minister Edmond Rizq, and Ambassadors Suhayl Shammas, Salah Sutaytiyah, and As'ad al-As'ad.

Dr al-Huss submitted to the conference, which is being attended by 34 Arab and European foreign ministers, a memoranudm reviewing the situation in Lebanon, the circumstances leading to the al-Ta'if agreement, the rise of a new legitimacy, and the subsequent state of rebellion and insubordination against the legitimate government, which jeopardizes Lebanon's unity and the Arab solution. In his memorandum, Dr al-Huss called on the conferees to support legitimacy and emphasized that the al-Ta'if agreement constitutes a suitable approach to resolving the Lebanese crisis and to achieving the following three goals:

—To transform the situation in Lebanon from a state of armed struggle to a state of peace.

—To revive constitutional institutions after the office of the president had stood vacant and power was partitioned between two authorities.

—To underscore Lebanon's unity after the intensity of the crisis had begun to threaten the very unity of the homeland, the society, and the state.

The memorandum noted that no settlement can satisfy all parties, but should provide a kind of balanced dissatisfaction among them. It added that the opposition to the settlement has taken the form of ferocious resistance, as embodied by the insubordination to the law and legitimacy led by the former army commander, who, by whipping up sectarian and tribal feelings, won part of public opinion to his side. Al-Huss accused some foreign circles, particularly in Europe, of adding fuel to the fire by taking advantage of the existing internal Lebanese differences and siding with one party against the other, thus further inflaming the sense of factional privilege and sectarian dissent in the ranks of the same people.

The memorandum referred to the Israeli occupation and noted Lebanon's suffering resulting from the great international inertia and shortcomings in implementing UN Resolution 425, thus deepening the tragedy of the Lebanese people and complicating their national crisis. Referring to the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, the memorandum said the entry of the Syrian troops into Lebanon in 1976 did not constitute an act of aggression against sovereignty, but came in response to a decision by the legitimate Lebanese Government. The memorandum pointed out that the al-Ta'if accord had settled this matter by setting a mutually acceptable timetable for Syrian withdrawal.

The memorandum added: The constitutional institutions alone represent legitimacy and sovereignty. The national accord government can proceed in only one way if peace and development are to be achieved, and this is the way of national reconciliation. The government's foremost concerns are to liberate the land, consolidate sovereignty, and reunite Lebanon by first removing the act of division represented by the rebellion and disobedience led by 'Awn, which confronted Lebanon with the danger of Cypriotization and partition.

The memorandum went on to say: We want the participants in this conference to do what they can to preserve Lebanon's freedom and unity, and they know better than anyone else what they can do. We want their support in liberating Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation by implemention of UN Security Council Resolution 425. We want their support in reuniting Lebanon and eliminating any thought of its fragmentation or partition. We want their support in rescuing Lebanon from its predicament and assisting it to rebuild its infrasctructure and capabilities. We want them to stand with us for a unified, free, sovereign, and independent Lebanon. For our part, we will not waver in our determination to safeguard Lebanon's unity, regardless of the sacrifices, and we will not rest until all the schemes of partition are aborted, Lebanon's unity is restored, and its victory is attained.

Calls Paris Trip 'Successful'

NC2312202089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut tonight from Paris where he participated in the Arab-European dialogue conference and held several important political contacts and consultations.

After his arrival, Prime Minister al-Huss made the following statement: I think that the trip was very successful. It gave us the chance to address the world about our issue at the highest diplomatic levels through the Arab-European dialogue conference which was attended by all the EC and Arab foreign ministers. We had the opportunity to hold extremely useful talks with a large number of officials in bilateral meetings which we held with them to explain our issue and to exchange views on what effective support their countries can lend to the Lebanese legitimacy in its effort to confront the dangers threatening the unity and future of the country.

We had the opportunity to meet with the foreign ministers of the tripartite Arab committee. We also had the opportunity to meet with senior French officials, including President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michel Rocard, and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: I can say that the positions conveyed to us in the conference and bilateral meetings were absolutely and unambiguously supportive of the Lebanese legitimacy represented by the president of the Republic and the national accord government.

These positions were decisive in expressing the commitment of the European states and of the brotherly Arab states to Lebanon's unity and the issue of peace and reconciliation in Lebanon. We sensed a consensus among all the officials we met that the al-Ta'if agreement constituted the only practical means available for achieving reconciliation, unity, and peace in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: There is no doubt that Lebanon's participation in the activities which took place in Paris, whether in the Arab-European dialogue conference or on the sidelines of the conference, was essential. We think that it will produce results which we hope will contribute to the process of reconciliation, peace, and unity to which we have committed ourselves in the face of the partitionist danger threatening Lebanon at the most delicate stage in its history.

'Awn Presents Lebanese Forces With Options

NC2212124989 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Tension has reached a climax between Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja', the two East Beirut rivals. 'Awn has accused the Lebanese Forces of political opportunism and said that he will soon eliminate this opportunism. He has given the Lebanese Forces three choices: lay down their arms, leave East Beirut, or join him.

'Awn Criticizes West for Supporting Syria

NC2312193489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] In a speech this evening to a number of popular delegations, General 'Awn wondered what the Arabs are doing in the Vatican. Gen 'Awn asked: Are they trying to find solutions with France and the Vatican? For whom are these solutions? If these solutions are for you, we here are closer to them than Paris and Rome. If the solutions are sought for others, they had better stay with them. Gen 'Awn said that anyone who looks for a solution outside the inter-Lebanese framework for Lebanon is an agent for Syria or any other country.

Gen 'Awn wondered: Where is the France that upholds freedom? Where are Britain, Europe, and the United States? What has remained of the America that fights the Noriega regime and supports Hafiz al-Asad's regime? What has remained of the France that hails Ceausescu's downfall while it supports Hafiz al-Asad? What has remained of the Britain that severed ties with Syria while it supports Hafiz al-Asad in Lebanon? We can only find weak and shapeless democracies with no rights for others, 'Awn said. We tell these countries to come here to see momentum and power, power of confronting dictatorship. Come and find power and determination to confront terrorism and to fight the rulers who smuggle drugs to kill your children and boys and who down airliners with explosives, Gen 'Awn concluded.

Government Efforts To Persuade 'Awn 'To Leave'

NC2712092789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] In Dubayy the AL-BAYAN newspaper has disclosed that France promised the Lebanese Government and the tripartite Arab committee to make direct efforts after the Christmas and New Year's holidays to persuade rebellious officer Michel 'Awn to leave B'abda Palace. Quoting Lebanese source in Beirut, the paper says that 'Awn stressed his readiness to leave B'abda Palace and hand it over to President al-Hirawi as soon as the Syrian forces begin withdrawing from Beirut and the north.

'Awn Urges Collective Resistance to Occupation

NC2612201189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn spoke to a visiting delegation at B'abda Palace today. He stressed the importance of internal unity and noted that no flag besides the Lebanese flag will fly over Lebanese territory.

In another address, Gen 'Awn announced: All Lebanese must hold out their hands to one another so they can greet each other, rise above the wounds and tragedies, and cooperate in rebuilding the homeland. He added: We cannot allow the occupation of our territory to continue without collective resistance and confrontation on our part.

The prime minister said: We are ready to make sacrifices to liberate our people from any occupation.

Gen 'Awn continued: Just as we freed the people from fear, we will free them from need. Those who could not threaten us with guns will not succeed in threatening us economically.

Hizballah Moves Hostages From Southern Suburb

NC2712123889 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18-24 Dec 89 p 66

[Text] Informed sources have stated that at the eleventh hour, Iranian officials prevented a major confrontation between Hizballah and the Syrian regime in the Southern Suburb. The Iranian officials persuaded Damascus to extend the time limit it gave Hizballah to withdraw its fighters from the contact line between Hayy al-Sullam and Mar Mikhayil Church in al-Shiyah. The withdrawal was to enable the Syrian soldiers to deploy all along the contact line from the port to the al-Sullam quarter.

The sources said that Hizballah asked that the time limit be extended by 4 hours to be able to evacuate its positions. The Syrian regime insisted on the withdrawal of the fighters within the time limit it had set. Hizballah refused to withdraw its fighters and declared a state of alert. Contacts were held between the Southern Suburb and Damascus, between the Southern Suburb and Tehran, and between Tehran and Damascus. These contacts resulted in the Syrian command's agreeing to delay the deployment of its units by 4 hours.

The sources said that Hizballah demanded the time limit be extended in order to be able to move the hostages, who were held in a number of houses and shelters in the Bir al-'Abd area. Syrian intelligence was aware of the real reason why Hizballah requested an extended time to withdraw its forces from the contact line.

REUTER Cited on Hostages' Transfer

NC2212184789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] REUTER said the Western hostages in Lebanon may expect sweets, listen to carols, and receive cards this Christmas, but not obtain their long-awaited freedom.

Citing fundamentalist sources and other responsible militia sources it said are loyal to Syria, REUTER said the eight Americans, four Britons, two Swiss, and two West Germans are alive and well.

Citing a fundamentalist source loyal to Iran, closely associated with the abductors, the agency said Christmas has always been a special occasion for the hostages and their abductors. The source added that on this occasion the abductors do their best to entertain their captives, to give them Christmas sweets, and to make them listen to recorded carols. At times their guards hand them cards and flowers.

The sources said a number of hostages will spend Christmas in new cells to which they were moved recently and that three of them have been transferred from the Southern Suburb to al-Biqa'. The sources noted that the transfer of hostages to remote areas took place because the abductors want to move freely. It was no longer possible for the abductors to do so because of the great number of Syrian troops who entered the Suburb recently.

15 North Koreans Join Hizballah Camp in Al-Biqa'

NC2712142789 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18-24 Dec 89 p 66

[Text] Fifteen North Koreans have arrived in al-Biqa' to join a Hizballah camp there. The Koreans include seven intelligence experts and three engineers.

Ahmad Jibril's Contacts With Hizballah Revealed

NC2712134789 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18-24 Dec 89 p 66

[Text] A Palestinian source has stated that Iran is giving great financial aid to Ahmad Jibril, who is considered the "second commissioner" for the Iranian regime in Lebanon after Hizballah.

The source said that military officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command are training Hizballah fighters in al-Na'imah and al-Biqa' because of the difficulty of training these fighters in Iran during the first stage of their enrollment in this pro-Iranian organization.

The source said that Jibril has close relations with Iranian intelligence in Tehran, with the intelligence service of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, as well as with the security department of Hizballah. On several occasions, pro-Jibril Palestinians stopped Shiite youths on the road to Sidon and handed them over to Hizballah in Madi barracks in Bi'r al-'Abd.

The source said that Jibril frequently visits Tehran where he hold talks with politicians and security officials at all levels. It is natural for Jibril to brief the Syrian regime on his contacts with the Iranians and Hizballah in Tehran and Lebanon.

Continued Reportage on Hizballah, Amal Fighting

Fadlallah, Druze Official Comment

NC2212141489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] As part of the effort being made to reduce tension in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, Attorney Durayd Yaghi, Progressive Socialist Party deputy leader for foreign affairs, has visited Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. They discussed various aspects of this issue and ways of foiling the plot of internecine fighting between brothers, which only benefits the enemies. They agreed on the need to take action on all levels as quickly as possible to frustrate the conspiracy and plotters and maintain the unity of brothers and kinfolk, particularly in view of the fateful circumstances through which Lebanon is passing.

Amal Movement Issues Communique

NC2212173889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations room in the South has issued the following communique:

An Amal group attacked an Israeli-Lahd position between 'Alman and al-Shumariyah at 2200 yesterday [21 December]. The attack, in which rockets and machineguns were used, caused several Israeli casualties. Shortly afterward, enemy forces raked the scene of the operation and pounded Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah with 82-mm mortar fire. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the area said that the 1-hour intermittent bombardment of the two areas only caused material damage.

Hizballah Issues Statement

NC2312110089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The Jabal 'Amil branch of Hizballah has issued the following statement on the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the south in general: Our good people in Jabal 'Amil, O Muslims and oppressed in Lebanon, because we and you desire to bury the sedition and prevent its recurrence between your sons and brothers in Hizballah and the Amal Movement, because we and you wish to preserve every drop of Muslim blood so that it can be shed in confronting the Zionist enemy, and because we adhere to the Damascus agreement which was concluded under the aegis of the Islamic Republic and Syria and which laid down the principles of a new relationship between us and the Amal Movement, we fully insist on implementing this agreement, adhering to it and being committed to its clauses and constraints.

Because we and you hate abhorrent internecine fighting and pray to God that others will not close the doors of reason and understanding and that they will not become vain about their sin, and because we do not want you to be fuel for the sedition that is being fomented, we have sought for more than 15 days to defuse the explosion that threatens everyone. In this connection we have made efforts day and night, conducted contacts with all those who care about the issue, held meetings with all those concerned with the matter and with all those who are capable of assisting us, if only by a mere word of exhortation.

The statement added: We are doing all of this without fanfare in order that the matter may not become uncontrollable and so that the situation may not be governed by the emotions of a zealous person or the scheming of a tendentious conspirator. Although we are continuing these efforts and counting much on the endeavors of sincere people, and although those capable of doing anything to avert the resumption of abhorrent fighting between our sons and brothers have not spared any efforts in this regard, we have met only with an insistence on military and media escalation so that not one clause of the agreement has been left unviolated.

The statement continued: Why do those who do not want the sedition to reappear and those who demonstrate their care to maintain unity of ranks open fire on secure people in their villages, arrest hundreds of young men, and evict many of our ulema and faithful people from their houses in Jabal 'Amil? Why do they besiege the Islamic resistance positions facing the Zionist enemy with their military concentrations, rocket launchers, and artillery? Why do they evacuate mujahidin from the villages using intimidation and threats, impose night curfews, and spread fear among the citizens? Why do they ban food and fuel supplies to the citizens and resistance fighters in 'Ayn Bu Siwar, al-Luwayzah, and Safi and at the same time spread rumors, frighten the people, and pave the way for security eruptions?

The statement said that those who do not want to renew the sedition should not introduce the fuel necessary to inflame it and hide the means of extinguishing it.

The statement declared: We are very careful on our part that no fighting will occur between Hizballah and Amal. We believe that the continued siege of Islamic Resistance's positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', al-Luwayzah, and Safi is a hot fuse ready to explode that all those who care and all the sons of our people must defuse as soon as possible and before the catastrophe takes place. We are ready to discuss any matter at a negotiating table to attain the best possible formula to implement the clauses of the Damascus agreement.

We are saying this despite all the intolerable acts against our brothers in Jabal 'Amil, including arrests, threats, expulsions, and aggression against the dignity of people and despite the acts to which our brothers in western al-Biqa' were subjected. These acts began with an armed ambush in Yuhmur that was preceded by provoking a tense situation through the introduction of new military positions, massing forces, carrying out an attack on Mashgharah with the aim of evicting the Islamic Resistance from that area, and imposing a siege on the citizens and brother mujahidin in Islamic Resistance positions.

We assure our good and sincere people who desire to protect their religion, cause, and mujahidin sons that we will spare no effort to prevent the resumption of the abhorrent fighting. We appeal to them, to all concerned parties, and to Islamic and nationalist forces to help us defuse the eruption, halt the repression and expatriation of our brothers and sisters in the south, repatriate the deported, lift the siege on the strugglers' positions, and reach understanding with the Amal Movement over the best ways to implement fully the agreements that have been concluded in order to rescue our arena from the great catastrophe that threatens it.
[Signed] Hizballah in Jabal 'Amil

Iran's Besharati To Arrive

NC2412205089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] According to security reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, the clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah are continuing and are currently concentrated in the villages of Jba', Kafr Fila, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, and 'Ayn Qana. Mortars and rockets are being used.

The Amal Movement said it is continuing to repulse attacks against Jarju' and Kafr Milki, adding that shells and sniper fire are hitting areas adjacent to the combat areas.

A Hizballah source said that the Amal Movement this afternoon launched an attack against Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The movement prepared for this attack with a concentrated artillery and rocket bombardment. The shelling was directed at Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jabal Safi, Kafr Milki, Kafr Fila, and 'Ayn Qana. The shelling resulted in heavy losses of life and property.

Within the framework of the attempts to stop the fighting between the two sides, Iranian official Mohammad 'Ali Besharati is expected to arrive in Beirut tonight after holding contacts in Damascus with Syrian officials; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council; Minister Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader; and Hizballah official Husayn al-Musawi.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC2512072789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Iqlim al-Tuffah continues to remain very tense. According to the most recent security reports, intermittent fighting between Amal and Hizballah personnel is still raging in the region. Meanwhile, Amal gunmen have so far failed to regain the villages of 'Ayn Qana and Kafr Fila despite the Movement's four attempts last night, according to a Hizballah communique.

According to a preliminary casualty toll, 25 people have been killed and well over 100 others wounded in the fighting.

The Amal Movement launched a large-scale offensive against Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday to regain its positions there. AFP reported that many Amal troops attacked Kafr Fila and 'Ayn Qana, which were seized by Hizballah yesterday under cover of concentrated artillery bombardment.

Meanwhile, the consultations in Damascus between the Iranian official Besharati and delegations from the two warring sides have so far failed to achieve positive results.

The Amal Movement and Hizballah continue to exchange accusations. An Amal official said that the movement's personnel continue to repulse Hizballah attacks on Jarju' and Kafr Milki, adding that Hizballah directed concentrated shelling at houses adjacent to the combat lines.

Amal Denies Fall of Jarju'

NC2512084589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] While fighting continues to rage between Amal Movement personnel and others from Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah, extensive exchanges are being conducted to curb the internecine fighting between them.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement security source has denied a media report that Hizballah gunmen have captured Jarju'. The source reiterated that Amal gunmen are in full control of the village and are holding in their positions to repulse any attack.

Iranian envoy Mohammad Besharati is due to meet with Amal and Hizballah officials in Beirut today.

'Violent Clashes' Continue

NC2512133389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports received from Iqlim al-Tuffah this afternoon, violent clashes are raging between the Amal Movement and Hizballah on the combat lines of Kafr Fila and Buslayya Hill. A secrurity source in the Amal Movement has stated that the movement's fighters have advanced toward Buslayya Hill and that fierce battles are taking place on the 'Ayn Qana-Jba' combat lines.

REUTER reports that 35 have been killed and more than 100 others wounded since the fighting broke out 3 days ago.

Hizballah To Open New Supply Line

NC2512162089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah are spreading in a way that indicates that the fundamentalist party has massed all its capabilities to force a showdown. It has launched attacks on various fronts. Meanwhile, Amal continues to stress that Hizballah has thus far not made any advance that would foreshadow its imminent victory in the south. At the same time, the clashes extended, in a limited way, to West Beirut.

The escalation of the fighting is accompanied by assistance to the two sides from some of their allies. Security sources in Sidon have reported that Palestinian elements have joined the battle to assist Hizballah's attacks on Amal. Amal, meanwhile, has called in the 64th Battalion of the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade.

According to the latest security reports, Hizballah launched an attack on Amal positions in Jurnaya this afternoon. It has so far failed, however, to come close to those positions.

Violent clashes meanwhile continue along the 'Ayn Qana and Kafr Fila lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Tension spread to West Beirut today, particularly the areas of al-Hamra' and Wadi Abu-Jamil where sporadic bursts of machinegun fire and rockets were heard. The Syrians deployed in force in the area immediately after that.

Hizballah's attack on Jurnaya comes in the wake of a similar attempt to seize Amal's positions in Buslayya. According to Amal sources, Hizballah failed to make any inroads into that area.

Hizballah sources have said that the party is now in a position that will enable it to control the area. It has opened a supply line between it and al-Biqa', particularly western al-Biqa'.

REUTER quoted security sources as saying that Hizballah apparently has the upper hand in the fighting. Its fighters yesterday captured the village of Jarju', 2 days after seizing two Amal strongholds in Kafr Fila and 'Ayn Qana. However, an Amal source stressed that the movement is still in complete control of Jarju', is holding its positions firmly, and is repulsing every aggression against the south. [passage omitted]

An official Amal media source has accused Hizballah groups of kidnapping 15 girls who are members of the Islamic Message Scouts. He said that Shahinat Mallah, the scouts official in the area, was kidnapped with the girls. The source added that Hizballah has also kidnapped other unarmed citizens. The Amal source said he would like to bring this behavior to the attention of the important religious figure who is close to Hizballah and who, in the statements attributed to him, disregards all facts.

Amal Troops 'Trying To Advance'

NC2612064289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports received from Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning, fighting between Amal and Hizballah is still going on, and Amal troops are trying to advance to retake Buslayya Hill.

An Amal Movement security source said that fierce fighting is currently raging along the 'Ayn Qana-Jba' combat lines. REUTER, meanwhile, has reported that the fighting has so far left 35 people dead and well over 100 others wounded.

Situation 'Remains Tense'

NC2612133889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The situation remains tense in Iqlim al-Tuffah amid sporadic fighting on the Jba', Jarju', Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Qana, and Buslayya Hill combat lines. The fighting grows tense occasionally, and opposing positions use rockets and machineguns. According to security reports received before this newscast began, the fighting has eased.

The Amal Movement information office denied reports by certain news media that the township of 'Arab Salim is being subjected to attack by Hizballah fighters. An Amal security source stated that the Amal Movment is in full control of Jarju' and 'Arab Salim. He also denied reports that Hizballah had advanced on the two towns.

Birri Appeals Over Fighting

NC2612194289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Dec 89

["Appeal from southern Lebanon" by Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri; date, place not given]

[Text] O great people of southern Lebanon, since the days of Alexander, during the time of the the butcher of Akko [Ahmad al-Jazzar, responsible for the massacre of Egyptian bedouins in the 18th century], and now when facing Israel, you have always remained with God. I address you in the name of Caliph 'Ali, Abu-Dharr [early Islamic philanthropist], and Imam Musa al-Sadr, because we are from you and for you. What is going on in southern Lebanon is not fighting between Shiites, but fighting against Shiites. It is not the resistance fighting Israel, but the resistance fighting itself across the Israeli gates in Kafr Huna and other areas. What is going on is an occupation of the south under the guise of religion. Religion has nothing to do with these people. They are shedding tears over the south as they stab it. The first to cry over Imam al-Husayn was 'Amr Ibn-Sa'd, who had ordered his death. They want you to become their hostage so that you can be used as booty.

I never imagined that I would have to appeal to my kinfolk, brothers, and sons in the south and exhort them to stand against apostacy, because I never imagined that the south would be punished to this point. I do not exaggerate when I say that our fate is at risk and the soil of the south, its stones, its trees, and even its history are calling on all of you to stand against the aggressor who has dressed himself in new clothes.

My kinfolk, our fate and martyrdom are the same. Shall we agree to be sold out? Shall we agree to be bought? Shall we agree to be the victims of our age? Does history want that? Or are we the sons of Imam al-Husayn, who refuse to be humiliated or to flee like slaves?

In the series of attempts to partition Lebanon, acts of aggression were committed against our country. There have been attempts to divide and fragment the Muslims. Regarding the Shiites, this fighting is sedition aimed at their slaughter. The Amal Movement is part of you. Let every child, woman, minaret, fountain, and old man turn into a force of resistance against this internal occupation. We trust in God for our victory.

Red Cross Ambulances Being Sent

NC2612180889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The regrettable clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah between fighters from the Amal Movement and Hizballah are continuing. The clashes, in which all types of weapons were used, were focused on the combat lines in Jba', 'Ayn Qana, Kafr Milki, [name indistinct], and Tallat Buslayya. Efforts continue to send Red Cross ambulances to the villages where the fighting is continuing so that the casualties can be evacuated.

The Amal Movement information office reported that journalists today toured the sites where the Amal Movement fighters are in control in the villages of al-Mujaydil, Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, 'Arab Salim, Jarju', and Jinsnaya. In the meantime, fighting continues on the outskirts of 'Ayn Qana and Kafr Killa.

The Amal Movement central information office issued a statement this afternoon about the grave and worrisome situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The statement affirmed that Hizballah is using all types of weapons against the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, causing extensive damage and casualties, as well as damaging crops, paralyzing life in the region, and causing an exodus of inhabitants. The statement underlined that only rebellious officer Michel 'Awn and agents allied to Israel gain from the fighting. The statement holds Hizballah responsible for the grave consequences that have befallen southern Lebanon and the people who have stood fast against the Israeli enemy there. The statement said that the precautionary measures taken by the Amal Movement disrupted the attackers' plans and delayed their committing new crimes. The statement also said that the first attack launched by Hizballah groups failed to achieve its objective and foundered in al-Mujaydil village. Under the pretext of a unilateral cease-fire, these groups reinforced their positions in the hope of achieving their goals. The Amal Movement sets forth these facts before public opinion and affirms that it will continue to defend the past, present, and future of southern Lebanon, whatever the sacrifices.

5 Killed in 26 Dec Fighting

NC2612175189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah around Iqlim al-Tuffah is continuing for the 4th consecutive day. The two sides exchanged artillery and rocket fire, particularly on the combat lines of 'Arab Salim, Kafr Fila, the approaches to Kafr Milki, Jarju', Jba', 'Ayn Qana, and Buslayya Hill.

According to security sources, five people were killed in today's clashes. Several others were wounded.

Tension today extended to West Beirut where an exchange of gunfire occurred in Hayy al-Luja during burial services for a number of Amal members who were killed in the Iqlim al-Tuffah incidents. The guards at Amal leader Nabih Birri's residence were placed on alert and fired a number of RPG's.

Hizballah Captures More Villages

NC2612181489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The war in Iqlim al-Tuffah between Amal and Hizballah is continuing. The major development today was the fall of Kafr Fila to the fundamentalist party in the wake of the fall of Kafr Milki.

A Hizballah security source telephoned our radio a short time ago and informed us that the villages of Kafr Hatta and 'Arab Salim have also fallen to Hizballah.

Our correspondent Elaine Zghayt followed this issue closely today and prepared the following report:

[Begin Zghayt recording] According to the latest reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, the villages of Kafr Milki and Kafr Fila have fallen to Hizballah, which already controls Jba', Jarju', and 'Ayn Bu Siwar. While violent clashes continue to rage between the two sides, the bodies of 'Azizah Tabbush, her son 'Aql, and Khalid al-Masri were taken to a hospital. This afternoon the tension spread to West Beirut and skirmishes were reported between Amal and Hizballah personnel in Hayy al-Luja.

Meanwhile, contacts continue in an attempt to halt the fighting. Hizballah leaders have urged observing a cease-fire and negotiating on the basis of previous agreements with the Amal Movement.

Amal leader Nabih Birri said he regards what is happening between the Amal Movement and Hizballah as an episode in the ongoing partition of Lebanon and the fragmentation of Muslims. He added that what is happening is not inter-Shiite fighting, but an attack on the Shiites and an occupation of the south under the guise of religion. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Amal Denies Positions Captured

NC2612200289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] An Amal Movement source denied this evening that Hizballah fighters had captured Kafr Fila and Kafr Milki, stressing that the positions of the two sides changed hands throughout the day as a result of military activity. He affirmed that the movement had repulsed a series of attacks on the two townships since this morning. The source told our radio that Amal still controls its positions in 'Arab Salim and Jarju' and that any reports to the contrary are false.

A source in Hizballah's media unit announced that the Islamic Resistance was surprised at 1915 by an attack launched by Amal gunmen on an Islamic Resistance stronghold from their positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar. Violent fighting is currently raging in the township's streets.

Furthermore, a Hizballah source has warned that Amal might carry out bombing operations against some vital installations in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly bridges, including the Kafr Hatta.

Updates on Casualties From Raids

NC2712075389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The act of aggression launched by an Israeli commando force and warplanes against two positions manned by the Lebanese Communist Party in Rashayya al-Wadi and al-Rumaylah on the Iqlim al-Kharrub coast yesterday left 11 people dead and 9 injured, according to an initial count last night. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss was briefed by Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi on the details of the aggression. Prime Minister al-Huss, Defense Minister Albert Mansur, Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin, and a number of party and political figures condemned the aggression. Dr al-Huss, in his capacity as foreign minister, instructed the director of political affairs in the Foreign Ministry to lodge an urgent complaint with the Security Council today against this new aggression.

40 Reported Dead, 180 Wounded

NC2712064889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah armed men is intermittently continuing in Iqlim al-Tufah. The fighting, in which machineguns and rockets are being used, centers on the Kafr Milki, Jarju', Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Qana, and Buslayya Hill combat lines.

On the toll of the Amal-Hizballah fighting since it first broke out, REUTER reports that about 40 people have been killed and more than 180 others wounded on both sides.

Israeli Attack on Jabal Safi Noted

NC2712072889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0645 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Our security correspondent told us a short time ago that the Zionist enemy attacked the Islamic Resistance positions in Jabal Safi a few minutes ago. After the failure of the initial attack, the enemy is now carrying out a second offensive supported by vehicles and tanks. The resistance mujahidin are confronting the attack fiercely.

Islamic Resistance Statement

NC2712095089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] An Israeli force supported by tanks and vehicles attacked Hizballah positions in the Jabal Safi area this morning.

The operations room of the so-called Islamic Resistance said in a statement: In continuation of the plan to strike at the Islamic Resistance, a force from the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army launched an attack on resistance positions in Jabal Safi near the radar at 0840 today.

The Islamic Resistance did not mention any casualties in its ranks, but said the attackers withdrew and left behind some casualties.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes continue between the Amal Movement and Hizballah personnel on the Jarju' Jba' 'yn Qana, and Buslayya Hill combat lines.

Amal Blamed for Participating

NC2712111589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of supporting an attack which began at 0900 by a joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army [SLA] force on positions of the so-called Islamic Resistance in Jabal Safi.

Hizballah sources said Amal artillery joined the Israeli Army and SLA artillery in bombarding al-Luwayzah and Jabal Safi with long- range shells, causing civilian casualties.

Army Denies Involvement

NC2712134389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Statement by West Beirut Lebanese Army Guidance Directorate; date not given]

[Text] Certain mass media have attributed remarks to an official in a certain organization about Lebanese Army units participating in the ongoing fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Army command categorically denies such rumors and asserts that the Army's mission in the South is to face up to the Israeli enemy. As for local security, the Army adheres to the legitimate political decision which stipulates that the Army should protect its own security and abstain from intefering in internal conflicts.

The Army command requests the mass media to be objective and to verify information before publishing it in order to clarify the facts and serve the higher interests of the homeland.

Besharati Arrives in Beirut

LD2612182589 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Beirut, Dec 26, IRNA—Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived here today after talks with Syrian officials in Damascus. His visit aims at resolving the dispute between the two Muslims groups, Hizballah and Amal. He is expected to establish more contacts with officials of the two groups to convince them to give up the internecine clashes. Upon his arrival, Besharati expressed Iran's opposition to "the fratricide," and emphasized on the peaceful settlement of the dispute.

Besharati Visits Leaders, Comments

NC2712135389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Besharati, Iran's first deputy foreign minister, today resumed his contacts with the parties concerned and spiritual figures. He visited Shaykh Shams al-Din at 1030 today accompanied by Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus; Hoseyn Naknam, Iran's charge d'affaires in Lebanon; and Mahmud Hashemi, head of the Middle East desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. In the meeting, which lasted until noon, they discussed the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Afterwards, Besharati said: We discussed ways to end the fighting between the brothers in the Amal Movement and Hizballah. We in the Islamic Republic are against the ongoing battles. We told His Eminence Shaykh Shams al-Din that the fighting must stop as soon as possible. He added: We are in constant contact with both parties. He said: A cease-fire will be announced tonight and forces will later withdraw. We have a new initiatve and, God willing, we will arrive at a result, he concluded.

Amal 'Ordered' To Respect Cease-Fire

NC2712151889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri today asserted that he had ordered his men to respect the cease-fire to pave the way for peaceful endeavors. He called for a general alert and full readiness in the south to cope with developments.

Minister Birri spent the night in the Iqlim al-Tuffah region, after touring some positions. He later met with all military officials in the movement and ordered them to respect the cease-fire.

Minister Birri said in a statement: As you have noticed, we respected the cease-fire announced in Damascus following talks with brother Dr Besharati, Iranian deputy foreign minister. However, the [Hizballah] party used the situation to launch a new offensive. Following the statement I issued yesterday, the aggressor can do one of two things: either withdraw immediately and to the positions they used as bases for their attacks until the Damascus agreement is implemented, or occupy the South. Every occupier will be dealt with by this people.

On implementing the provisions of the Damascus agreement, Birri said: The first provision which must be applied is to make the towns of Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar weapon-free zones. The security of the south must be left to the Amal Movement. We are the ones who demand the implementation of the Damascus agreement, while they look upon this agreement merely as an excuse. It was they who turned Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar into arsenals and bases for their attacks against the south.

Birri added: All Lebanese have noticed that what happened in al- Biqa', West Beirut, and Iqlim al-Tuffah occurred during the battle to unify Lebanon against Michel 'Awn. From the political point of view, this attack against the Amal Movement's positions is fighting behind the nationalist and Muslim lines to serve 'Awn.

On whether he expects the cease-fire to continue, Birri said: It is up to them. We were the victims of aggression and not the aggressors. After the Damascus agreement, they seized more territory than what was stipulated in the agreement. For example, they seized the largest part of al-Awza'i and western al-Biqa', and now they are trying to gain more land in the south.

On Palestinian participation in the ongoing fighting, Birri said: I do not know of any Palestinian participation in the battle. There was an agreement reached with the Palestinian brothers after the initiative I launched in 1987. Both we and they have largely committed ourselves to that agreement. We support their security and their cause. We believe that the most honorable phenomena are resistance in the south and the intifadah in sacred Palestine.

On Ja'ja's suggestion about a federal state, Birri said: The voices of partitionists are rising together with the sound of guns.

Egyptian Prime Minister Arrives, Meets Al-Asad

JN2712113889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's envoy, at 1140 today. The meeting was attended by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and 'Amr Musa, ambassador at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Damascus at 1030 today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Mahmud al-Zu'bi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Muhammad Salman, minister of information affairs; Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the assistants to the minister of foreign affairs and the minister of economy and foreign trade; and a number of officials.

Khaddam Returns From Cairo, Hails Relations

JN2312175389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this evening following a 1-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he conveyed a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to President Husni Mubarak.

At 1040 today, President Husni Mubarak of Egypt received Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, envoy of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. President Mubarak and the president's envoy held a closed session.

Khaddam arrived at Cairo International Airport at 1030 today. He was welcomed at the ramp by Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and a number of cabinet ministers.

In the honor lounge, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam made a statement to reporters and correspondents of Arab and foreign news agencies, saying: I wish that we had a yardstick for measuring the depth of sentiments and emotions. Had I the ability to express my feelings, I would have done so. He added: As a matter of fact, I have had deep feelings—feelings that take us back to the past and make us look into the future—since the moment the plane landed at Cairo airport. I would like to express my immense pleasure at the chance that I have been given to visit Cairo to relay a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to brother friend President Husni Mubarak. There is no doubt that I have mixed feelings, the first of which concerns the fact that I am visiting Cairo after a 13-year hiatus. Besides, Cairo has a cherished place in my psyche and heart. The same goes for all Syrians who harbor deep sentiments of affection and love for Cairo. The second feeling pertains to the fact that I am carrying a message of fraternal sentiment, affection, and communication involving Syria and Egypt—a message His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to convey to his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak.

In response to a question on the possibility of holding a meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak to complete the course of affection and fraternity, Khaddam said: I hope to see this meeting held sooner than you expect.

Asked about the future of ties between the two countries, the vice president said: You are well aware that Egypt and Syria maintained ties in the past that were more distintictive than those maintained by any of these two states with other Arab states. This has been an established fact throughout the nation's long history. Throughout the region's long history before and after the [Islamic] conquest, the Egyptians and Syrians maintained ties and links. These ties linked the two peoples and turned them into an impregnable fortress in the face of all the dangers that posed threats to the region.

He added: As you know, Egypt and Syria formed the base for defending the Arab nation against the Mongols, Tartars, and the Crusaders' conquests. They confronted Napoleon's invasion and faced the contemporary colonial rule. They also confronted Zionism. This pan-Arab history, which is replete with events, hopes, blood, tears, and aspirations, is what the two countries have in common. All of us know that whenever Syria and Egypt reach a united position and attain cohesion, the entire Arab nation's attention is drawn to the central point, the Arab state of affairs improves, and the Arabs become optimistic over the emergence of a better future. In contrast, when bilateral ties are clouded, this reflects on the Arab nation. We have seen manifestations of this during numerous phases. However, these phases will remain passing clouds. Syria and Egypt, which have shouldered the basic burden on behalf of the Arab nation to defend its pan-Arab interests, are bound to resume their march to shoulder this burden. We in Syria and Egypt, in our capacities as leaders of the two countries, hope that we will be able to respond to the aspirations of the Syrian, Egyptian, and Arab citizens.

Concluding his statement, the president's envoy said: The rectification of the course of bilateral relations will necessarily lead to a rectification of the overall Arab state of affairs.

Accord With Egypt To Boost Arab Struggle

JN2412150689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is only natural for the masses of our Arab nation to show a great deal of interest in the successive steps to promote the ties between the Syrian and Egyptian peoples. The meeting between the two fraternal countries and the rectification of their relations will have great and decisive impact on the future of the Arab region and the future of its militant cause.

Al-Asad's Syria has always been the mecca of Arab strugglers, wherever they are. It stood as a strong fortress against all enemies and remained faithful to the goals of its nation. Despite tough circumstances, Syria shouldered the responsibility of steadfastness in the face of Zionist ambitions that targeted the entire Arab nation. It never withdrew or retreated, and it protected the Arab body from collapse despite the vicious plots to which our nation was and still is subjected.

Hence, the masses of our Arab nation from the Gulf to the Ocean look with satisfaction at the steps so far taken and to the next steps aimed at rectifying the course of relations between Egypt and Syria. They hope that these steps will take on added strength to face up to the great challenges brought by developments in the region and the world. The historical militant bonds between the two fraternal peoples in Syria and Egypt, which always foiled foreign invasions and conspiracies against the Arab nation, are able to rectify current developments and lift the morale and militant spirit of the Arab masses everywhere. By their spontaneous and sincere pan-Arab awareness, these masses realize that effective Arab solidarity and mobilization of Arab resources guarantee the collapse of Zionist dreams and the failure of all plots against the Arabs and their legitimate rights.

If we look realistically at the political map of our Arab region, we will clearly discover that the masses of the nation are looking forward to healing their wounds, which were caused by Zionist and imperialist plots here and there; they especially look forward to crushing the Zionist invasion and its malicious extensions. From this premise, the Arab masses view with optimism the rapid steps to rectify relations and remove the clouds between Egypt and Syria, because these two countries, throughout past and modern history, constituted the firm ground on which the Arabs stood to defend their land, dignity, and existence.

Arab Syria under President Hafiz al-Asad carried the banner of Arab unity and effective and genuine Arab solidarity. It left no chance to rally the Arabs behind pan-Arab goals and, consequently, to bring closer the moment of victory against the enemies of the nation. Under this banner, it waged the glorious October war of liberation side by side with the Arab people of Egypt. It protected the Arabs from being dragged into secondary battles that did not serve the nation. And, proceeding from an honest and sincere pan-Arab position, it confronted the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, prevented the partition of the fraternal country, and safeguarded the unity of its land, people, and institutions.

From this premise, Arab Syria, which knew precisely the requirements of the current stage and the perils of events taking place in our Arab region, was not reluctant to make a major qualitative step that first and last serves the interests of the Arab nation and greatly supports the Arab struggle. This was out of a belief that the common ground among the sons of the nation is far greater than the differences between them, no matter how these differences are magnified by the enemies.

A meeting between any two Arab countries is a vital Arab requirement. However, the meeting between Syria and Egypt is of utmost importance as these two countries have taken the brunt of defending the Arab nation and its interests and rights. When Syria and Egypt stand in one position, the Arab force becomes a tangible fact greatly affecting the entire Arab situation. Their meeting gives great impetus to the legitimate Arab struggle in defense of Arab rights, lands, and future.

Defense Minister Talas Receives USSR's Katushev

JN2712070089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, yesterday evening received at his office USSR Foreign Economic Relations Minister Katushev and the accompanying delegation, in the presence of the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

The meeting dealt with relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries and means of developing them.

Romanian Envoy Denies Reports by 'Biased' Radios

JN2612155089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1508 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal today received the Romanian ambassador in Damascus at the ambassador's request.

During the meeting, the Romanian ambassador briefed the deputy foreign minister on the statement issued by the National Salvation Front in Romania, completely denying what has been broadcast by some biased foreign radio stations, especially Israeli radio, about the participation of Syrian elements in the fighting in Romania during recent events.

The statement also affirmed that the Romanian national salvation council [as received] takes no responsibility for the various reports broadcast by foreign radios on the events in Romania.

Israeli Raid 'Designed To Encourage' 'Awn

JN2612175089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The new Israeli act of aggression against southern Lebanon at dawn today has reaffirmed that the Zionist enemy leaves no stone unturned in its efforts to maintain fraternal Lebanon as a field of chaos, fighting, and sedition. It demonstrated yet again that the Zionist enemy is the only enemy that hatches plots and recruits agents to carry them out with the unvarying purpose of dividing Lebanon and eliminating all its constitutional and legitimate institutions.

The Lebanese need no new Israeli aggression to recognize the ferocity of the Zionist enemy and its aggresive and expansionist ambitions. Fraternal Lebanon has been suffering from Israeli acts of aggression since the disaster [the events of 1948]. However, this aggression and Israeli actions in the occupied part of southern Lebanon takes on a more obvious significance at this stage. It is certainly designed to encourage Israel's agents, especially the insurgent officer Michel 'Awn, who is confronting the legitimate Lebanese authority and defying the national Lebanese will and the Arab and international consensus, which supports this legitimate authority and its institutions.

This new Zionist aggression comes at a time when insurgent officer 'Awn is becoming increasingly isolated, and the overwhelming majority of Lebanese are steering clear of his separatist ideas. 'Awn has been exposed as a reckless insurgent aspiring to become a dictator controlling a piece of Lebanon; he is merely a tool executing foreign schemes that do not want unity, security, and stability for Lebanon and its people.

The al-Ta'if accord guarantees a just peace regarding the Lebanese problem, secures the rights of all Lebanese to participation and equality, and maintains the Arab affiliation of the fraternal country. The separatist and isolationist forces opposing this accord and the Lebanese legitimate authority have had no choice—after the legitimate authority managed to impose an Arab and international blockade on them through its political and diplomatic contacts—but to seek direct help from the Zionist enemy through criminal Israeli acts of aggression to support them in their war against the Lebanese people and their free national will.

But the Israeli enemy and its agents have forgotten that the Lebanese people, who have long experience in struggle and resistance and who confronted and foiled the Zionist invasion and its symbols, will not be daunted by such attacks; nor will they soften their determination and resolve to liberate Lebanese territory from the Israeli occupation and its agents. There is no difference between these agents—whether located in the remotest part of southern Lebanon or hidden behind the bodies of children and school pupils at B'abda Palace.

The Lebanese legitimate authority, which has done all it could to block the road to agents who trade in the blood of the Lebanese people, and which has made successful moves on the domestic, Arab, and international scenes, has managed to besiege the separatist scheme and its symbols. This authority holds all the cards that can end the state of rebellion and insurgence represented by 'Awn. It will not allow this state to continue or spread. All political and security developments in Lebanon stress beyond a doubt the need for the legitimate authority to handle the separatist state in the eastern areas in a decisive manner, to end the state of rebellion, to extend a helping hand to the kinfolk in the eastern part of Beirut, to liberate them from the usurper of their will and freedom, and to establish authority over all Lebanese territory. This is in the interest of Lebanon and the Arab region.

Regardless of the ordeals and tragedies that the enemies and their agents are trying to create, and regardless of their attempts to fan the flames of sedition and fighting in Lebanon, the fraternal Lebanese people can, with the help of their twin country, Syria, and the supportive Arab and international will, achieve victory, foil the plot, and crush its symbols. Lebanon can only exist as is desired by its people: Arab and united in terms of land, people, and institutions under its legitimate authority, which sprang from the al-T'aif accord and the will of the overwhelming majority of Lebanese.

TISHRIN: 'Elimination' of 'Awn 'Only Way Left'

JN2612092489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon and the Possibility of Salvation," TISHRIN says: The tripartite committee has exerted intensive efforts in more than one Arab and international capital to make available the means to enable the accord government to carry out the role assigned to it in order to solidify the will of unity and reject the logic of partition.

The efforts of the tripartite committee have received the needed Arab and international support. At the same time, the Lebanese Government began to adopt a series of legal measures to tighten the noose around 'Awn and remove any cover he might put on, in order to expose his reality as a rebellious character who is seeking partition after he has failed to quench his thirst for power.

If 'Awn's isolation in Lebanon has become clear, the Arab and international isolation which began to besiege him are just as clear. This makes the elimination of the partitionist phenomenon he represents the only way left for the Lebanese in order to save Lebanon from its ordeal and put it on the road of national salvation, especially since the diplomatic efforts which are still continuing have not yet achieved the desired result.

This drove the Lebanese Government, which emerged from the national accord crystallized in the al-Ta'if agreement, to declare that it will implement all possible means to safeguard the unity of Lebanon and immunize it against all conspiracies of partition and fragmentation. It seems that using this right by the Lebanese legitimacy is within sight.

Panama-Like 'Armed Dialogue' Required in Lebanon

JN2312085689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial, AL-THAWRAH wonders why America and some other Western countries deprive Lebanon of a legitimate right that America has granted itself in other places in the world, the latest being Panama. Why does America call for dialogue and politics here in Lebanon and follow other methods elsewhere? It practices armed dialogue, a method required in 'Awn's case; in fact, this is the only method to tackle such a situation. If this is correct—and it is correct—Lebanon, with all its legislative institutions, will not allow the 'Awn phenomenon to go on and on until the situation becomes very grave and destructive. Lebanon is more important, more sensitive, and more vital to the whole Arab nation than a backyard; it is the front yard. Lebanon is the entrance and the flank of the nation.

TISHRIN Comments on 'Awn's 'Elections Farce'

JN2312091189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Awn and the Elections Farce," TISHRIN says: 'Awn's megalomania has become a memory; his scheme to separate East Beirut from the rest of Lebanon and declare himself leader is doomed to failure. The Lebanese in West and East Beirut suffered for the ambitions of the rebel general. Most of the Army brigades are loyal to Lebanese legitimacy, as Army Commander General Lahhud has affirmed. The citizens are looking forward to the day when they become free from the sword of terrorism and brutality to participate in building new Lebanon—free and democratic Lebanon—in which justice and equality prevail. Lebanese legitimacy, the reconciliation government, and East Beirut figures are aware that the farce of elections devised by 'Awn is only aimed at continuing to divide Lebanon in implementation of the Israeli scheme. Everyone believes that partition is a crime that cannot be faced with silence and that it must be confronted with the appropriate language, particularly since partition is rejected by the Arabs and the world. Syria places all its potential at the disposal of legitimacy to face any such plot. 'Awn cannot find a single international side that supports his separatist plan. Even those who supported him at the beginning will be forced to withdraw their support and declare it instead for the country's unity. This does not mean that 'Awn's moves can be disregarded. The rebel general will not hesitate to follow any method to preserve his hegemony and tyranny. Hence, facing the plot with the appropriate language will remain an existing Lebanese option to save the country from more jolts and ordeals.

Al-Shar' Returns From Paris Dialogue Meetings

JN2312205389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus this evening after participating in the Euro-Arab ministerial dialogue held in Paris. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Pakistani Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD2612210889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned this morning to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following matters were conveyed to him by the acting director of the First Political Department:

The responsible authorities of Afghanistan have been informed that Pakistani militia members in Boldak District have prevented Afghan refugees from returning to the Republic of Afghanistan. The Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs considerd this hostile action by the Pakistani militia an open violation of the Geneva accords and lodges a strong protest with the responsible Pakistani authorities. It demands that the responsible authorities of that country, in line with the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords, refrain from creating obstacles in the way of Afghan refugees who wish to return to their country in accordance with the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation.

Defense Officials Freed; Tanay 'Not Under Arrest'

BK2612141489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1409 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul, Dec 26 (AFP)—The Afghan Government has freed the head of the Defence Ministry's Communications Department and a senior general after interrogations proved they were not part of a resistance coup plot, official sources here Tuesday [26 December].

They said the president of the ministry's Communications Department, a colonel general and a colonel were recently released after being arrested by the secret police December 2 along with 124 other civilian and military officers.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Muhammad Naqib confirmed the three releases and said their arrests during sweeps in the capital had been a "misunderstanding." The spokesman said the three were innocent and not part of any plot.

Mr. Naqib however declined to name the communications chief or the other two, and sources here said the government had decided to hold back their names as part of an "understanding."

The spokesman also said that among the arrested alleged coup plotters were officials from the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Defence Ministry civilians and military officers.

But he denied rumours that the alleged plot was hatched by the Defence Ministry and the Army to topple President Najibullah and his Soviet-backed government. Earlier, government spokesmen said some 300 people loyal to the rebel fundamentalist faction Hezb-e Eslami, led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, were involved in the alleged plot.

The arrests of the 127 alleged coup plotters were conducted by the Interior Ministry, which controls the secret KHAD police, but the alleged conspirators were taken into custody by the Defence Ministry for questioning.

Mr. Naqib also said that at least six of the alleged plotters, including an Afghan military general, had since fled to Pakistan where seven of the most active mujahidin groups are based.

The alleged plot was aimed at creating "mayhem" in the Afghan capital through bombings and assassinations of government and PDPA leaders, he said.

Meanwhile, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Afghan Council of Ministers, a rank equivalent to that of prime minister, denied rumours that Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay was under close house arrest. "He is not under arrest, the reports are wrong. Mr. Tanai has appeared on television and you will see him (in person) soon," Mr. Keshtmand told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview.

IRNA: Soviet Advisers, Air Force 'Still Active'

LD2612212189 Tehran IRNA in English 1836 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Peshawar, Dec. 26, IRNA—Despite the pull out of the Soviet troops, the Soviet military advisers and the airforce are still active in Afghanistan and have been taking part in the war operations.

In the course of the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the Soviet planes extensively and constantly conducted bombing along the Salang Highway as a result of which over 600 Afghan civilians were martyred and over 2,000 others injured.

According to a survey conducted by the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP), the Soviet planes continued operations throughout the year and targetted villages on both sides of Salang Highway in northern Afghanistan, where an estimated 5,000 Afghan civilians were martyred.

Besides the savage Soviet bombing, the recent air operation was undertaken in the second week of the current month when bombers taking off from the Soviet border town of Termez engaged assisted the armoured units of the Kabul regime to reopen the Salang Highway.

For the moment, the mujahidin's military strength is engaged at the Salang Highway in order to cut off the Soviet military and other supplies over the land route. The mujahidin are in effective control of territory spreading over 64 kilometre between Kabul and Charikar while beyond Khenjan and up to Mazar-e Sharif, the blockade was often maintained at different portions of the Salang Highway.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, fighting was continuing with full intensity around all the besieged towns and cantonments. The heavy war theaters are Herat, Faryab, Balkh and Konduz on the Soviet borders, while in the northeast the mujahidin control Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces except the city of Facyzabad and Vakhan region.

This year, 2217 Kabul troops were killed, 5,400 were captured and 4,668 Afghan troops defected to the Mujahidin. During the same period a total of 840 mujahidin were martyred during the year while 1979 were injured and the number of those who were arrested could not be confirmed.

The mujahidin also captured 6,556 Kalashnikov rifles, 518 machine guns and an assortment of heavy weapons as well as 68 tanks and 185 army vehicles.

During 1989, the mujahidin brought down 64 aircraft and 28 helicopters. The number is half of that of the previous year, due to apparent shortage of ground to air missiles.

However, the Afghan jihad entered a new phase this year with the cities under siege and the mujahidin are controlling all the major roads.

The mujahidin have also liberated the provincial capitals of Asadabad, Taleqan, Mahmud-e Raqi, Bamian and Sherna [name as received], and are running effective administration in the liberated territories.

'Extremists' Fire 30 Rockets on Kabul City

LD2612190589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan-backed extremists again committed another crime against our faithful people by firing 30 U.S. rockets. BIA's [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that rockets were fired on the crowded areas of Kabul city, under the state terrorist plan of Pakistan and the United States by their servants. As many as eight of our compatriots were martyred, including four innocent children and a woman. As many as six others were wounded. The wounded were immediately taken to the hospital, where they are now under intensive care. There were also material damages.

According to an authoritative security source, the rockets were fired at crowded and residential areas of Kabul from the direction of Paghman by groups headed by Doctor 'Abdallah and Zalmay Tufan, under the instruction of a ringleader of Sayyaf of the Wahhabi group Sher Alam; from the direction of Kuh-e Safi by the ringleader of the Muhammadi group, Mawlawi Manaf, and by a ringleader of Khalis' extremist group; and from the direction of Shakar Darreh by Bashi Tahir and Nasim, the teacher, under the instruction of Anwar Danger associated with Jamiyat. These criminals are the murderers of the children of the city of Kabul where eight people, including four children lost their lives.

The residents and peace-loving people of Kabul have recognized the true identity of these killers and will never forgive these criminals. They are under constant surveillance by the people and will be punished for their criminal acts. The residents of Kabul request their compatriot brothers in the districts of Paghman, Shakar Darreh and Kuh-e Safi to curtail the hands of those criminals from the continuation of the killing of the children and women and men of Kabul and to not allow them to continue their unforgivable crimes against the people of Kabul.

BIA adds that units of Kabul garrison launched air and artillery attacks on the enemy's concentration bases and fire position in the periphery of Kabul to prevent the continuation of the terrorist and un-Islamic acts. As a result 30 extremists, who fired rockets on the city of Kabul, were killed and 10 others were wounded. One DShK machinegun, one mortar, one ZK1 machinegun, and five of the enemy's headquarters were destroyed.

Residents 'Stunned' by Attack

BK2712094089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 27 Dec 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 27 (AFP)—A major rocket attack launched by mujahidin rebels Wednesday [27 December] stunned Kabul, driving people indoors as ceaseless reports of blasts came from almost all parts of the Afghan capital.

The attack began at eight a.m. (0330 GMT) and within two hours had intensified, sending private cars off the streets where military vehicles were seen prowling.

Wednesday marked the 10th anniversary of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan to maintain a communist regime in power.

"We cannot say how many rockets have fallen as the attack is still on," a government spokesman told an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter who was advised by soldiers to jump into a street-side bunker.

The troopers estimated that at least 15 rockets had hit in the first two hours of Wednesday's attack, adding that double the number had been fired by government soldiers into the neighbouring Paghman hills, the base from which the resistance usually launches rockets on the city.

At least two of the missiles slammed into Shar-e-nau, Kabul's poshest downtown shopping center, and areas around the airport had also received several hits, residents and soldiers said.

Sources said two rockets had impacted behind the building housing the Central Committee of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, while another rocket was believed to have slammed into a garrison of presidential troops in front of the committee office. The garrison houses about 10,000 men, but casualty figures were not known.

Some 15 rockets had hit in the vicinity of the airport, the sources said, but were unable to give details. By midday (0730 GMT) unofficial estimates put the number of missiles to have hit the city at 25. It was not immediately known whether the airport itself was under attack, nor could the number of casualties in the city be determined.

Loud explosions came from different directions round the city center Kabul Hotel, mingling with the flat reports and sonic booms of government launched missiles, shaking buildings and rattling windows.

"It is better to stay indoors today," a senior Defence Ministry official said when contacted by telephone for latest details of the attack, which appeared to be the fiercest on the capital this year.

Thirty rockets slammed into Kabul Tuesday, killing eight people and wounding 15, and officials said then they expected a barrage Wednesday as part of the resistance's way of marking the 10th anniversary of the Soviet intervention.

The Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan in February this year but the mujahidin continue to battle the Moscow-supported government of President Najibullah.

Mujahidin fighters have killed 2,600 civilians and injured 5,690 in rocket and bomb attacks countrywide since the Soviet troop withdrawal in February, according to official figures which do not list military casualties.

Mujahidin Attack 7th Army HQ, Kabul Airport

LD2512170889 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 25, IRNA—According to mujahidin sources, the Kabul Government's military positions at Dar ol Aman, the headquarters of the 7th Army Division as well as the Kabul Airport, came under one of the fiercest rocket attacks on the Afghan mujahidin on Dec. the 18th.

Details of the lightening attack were not avilable yet but it is reported that heavy material and human losses were inflicted on the Communist forces. As a result of the attack the airport remained blocked and flights were suspended for many hours.

The mujahidin also killed four security personnel of the regime, during a clash at Chowk-e-Arghani [name as received] south west of the city centre, on Dec. 16th.

Two mujahids were also killed in the clash and one was wounded.

It was further learnt that a Kabul regime vehicle was destroyed when it hit a landmine planted by the mujahidin near the Kata Kheyl [placename as received] and Abdara [placename as received] posts at Deh Sabz District, northeast of Kabul city, on Dec 15.

Mujahidin Reportedly Repulse Qalat Offensive

LD2612204589 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 26, IRNA—According to reports reaching from Zabol Province to Quetta, the Afghan mujahidin are reported to have beaten off a massive military offensive by the Communist regime forces on their positions around Qalat, the provincial capital of Zabol Province from Dec. 18th to Dec. 21st.

A staff correspondent of MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] who was in the province while confirming the reports says in a despatch that, the mujahidin were locked in fiercest battles with the militia units of the notorious militia commander, Rashid Dustum [name as received] at Omki Desert [placename as received], some two kilometers north of Qalat city, on the 18th of Dec.

So far, the mujahidin have killed sixteen militiamen, including their commander Sultan Khan. Ten militiamen were also wounded. It said the massive offensive of the Communist forces aimed at enlarging the security belt of the city has been defeated and enemy forces have retreated back to city.

The mujahidin captured 29 pieces of arms from the retreating militia forces. Rashid Dustum was specially flown to Qalat for the massive offensive against the mujahidin numbering 400 men. Except for the capital city, rest of the province is in the hands of mujahidin.

Soviet Invasion Recalled

BK2712091489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, fierce fighting is continuing between the Kabul regime forces and mujahidin in various parts of the country. The MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency has reported that mujahidin have repulsed a major offensive of the Kabul regime forces in Qalat, the capital of Zabol Province, and killed 16 soldiers including the commander of the Kabul forces. The mujahidin also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition in the attack.

Meanwhile, meetings are being held at various Afghan refugee camps today marking the 10th anniversary of Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. These meetings will be addressed by mujahidin leaders.

Najibullah Receives Peoples' Representatives

LD2612143989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Kabul Dec. 25, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan met with elders and representatives of Shakar Darreh, Mir Bacheh Kowt, Bagram, Estalef, Qarah Bagh, Sarai Khwaja, Kohdaman and Kalakan regions of Kabul Province, in Gol Khanah, presidential palace here today.

BAKHTAR reports that at the outset of the meeting President Najibullah asked the representatives and elders of the said areas to speak on their problems and local difficulties.

Later on a number of elders and chieftains from the said regions expressed their views on their local problems in connection to opening of the highway, ensurance of the transfer of foodstuffs and primary goods as well as providing facilities for transfer of the goods.

Then President Najibullah, after hearing the proposals of the representatives of the said areas explained the politico-military and economic state of the country, recent developments in realization of the national reconciliation objectives, maintenance of peace and security as well as the main causes of the existing problems emanating from the continuation of war and bloodshed by the opposition groups.

President Najibullah gave necessary instructions to the concerned authorities for the solution of local difficulties of the residents of the mentioned places.

At the end of the meeting representatives of the people's localities thanked the state of the Afghanistan for its attention paid to the removal of the people's difficulties and stated their all-sided cooperation for the settlement of the present problems.

India

Further on Singh's Statement on Bofors Company

BK2612161989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The union government has decided to debar Messrs A.B. Bofors of Sweden from entering into any contract with India in future for the supply of defense weapons and weapon system. This was announced by the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in the Rajya Sabha today during question hour. He said considering the overall conduct of Messrs Bofors, the arms company will be debarred till it satisfies the government in its conduct with regard to the howitzer gun deal. [passage omitted]

Mr Singh said Swiss authorities have been approached on the 12th of this month to quickly furnish some information. He assured the members that other possible steps are also being taken and the enquiries expedited.

The prime minister, in a written reply, said so far, payment of commission amounting 319.4 million Swedish kronas by Bofors has come to light and the Swedish audit bureau had confirmed in 1987 that huge payments were credited to secret Swiss bank accounts by Messrs A.B. Bofors. The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] also sent letter of rogatory seeking assistance of the Swiss Government. No reply has been received so far. The prime minister said the CBI has now been asked to pursue the investigations vigorously.

In another written reply, Mr V.P. Singh said the alleged payment of commission in the HDW [Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft, A.G.] German submarine deal is also being reviewed. He said enquiries into the matter were closed by the previous Congress-I government in April last year.

Gujral on Pakistani Statement, Military Exercise

BK2712090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, has said that the reference to the rights of minorities in India in the recent resolution passed by the Pakistani Senate is an intervention in the internal affairs of our country and not in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Simla agreement. Replying to a spate of questions in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Gujral said Pakistan has no locus standi on this matter.

Referring to the massive military exercise by Pakistan near India's border, the minister said it is the part of a normal defense exercise. He however added that the government is not taking it lightly, and the Indian forces are always vigilant to safeguard the interest of the country.

About the activities of the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front], the minister said India has taken up the matter with Pakistan.

Answering another question, Mr Gujral said talks are going on between the two countries [India and Pakistan] to arrive at a comprehensive settlement on the Siachen issue.

More Officials Kidnapped in Andhra Pradesh

BK2712095489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, two mandal praja parishad [local administration] presidents were also kidnapped in separate incidents last night. The president of the Chingunta mandal praja parishad was kidnapped along with the Congress-I MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr Vithal Reddy, from Chevella Village in Ramayampet in Medak District. The other mandal praja parishad president was abducted by the Naxalites from the Suravaram village in the Karimnagar District. The kidnappers left a note with the villagers to be handed over to the police.

Earlier, Mr M. Venkateshwar Rao, Telugu Desam MLA, was kidnapped in Nizamabad District on Saturday. He remains untraced so far. The condition of his wife, who is continuing her hunger strike for the 4th day demanding her husband's release, has deteriorated.

In Nizamabad, six buses and an office of the mandal praja parishad were set on fire by agitators today, demanding the release of the Telugu Desam MLA. All shops are closed and the lawyers have boycotted the courts in the town. A group of women took out a silent procession in the town.

The kidnappers in a new demand have asked for the release of four more of the jailed Naxalites, while one of the six Naxalites whose release has been sought in exchange for the kidnapped Telugu Desam MLA has been released. The state government has announced that several measures are being rigorously pursued to secure the release of the kidnapped MLA's.

In the Lok Sabha today, Congress-I members expressed serious concern over the spate of kidnappings in different parts of the country. Raising the issue during zero hour, Mr P. Chidambaram said that in Andhra Pradesh, one more MLA was kidnapped yesterday and another MLA is already being held hostage for several days.

Congress-I Assails Handling of Sayeed Kidnapping

BK2312085289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] In the Rajya Sabha yesterday, a Congress-I member urged the government to make its stand clear on Article 370 of the Constitution regarding Kashmir.

Raising the matter through a special mention, the member criticized the center for releasing five hardcore terrorists to secure the release of the union home minister's daughter, Dr Rubina Sayeed, from the kidnappers recently in Srinagar. He wanted the government to come out with the full details of the kidnapping incident and said that the release of terrorists will encourage terrorist activities in the Kashmir valley.

BJP Chief Demands Security Belt on Punjab Border

BK2312124589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] president, Mr L.K. Advani, has reiterated his party's demand for a security belt along the Punjab border with Pakistan and firm measures to fight terrorism. Mr Advani was speaking to newsmen at Pathankot. He said the new government should not make any hasty move on Punjab. The BJP president said that the National Front government at the center is alive to the problems facing the country, as indicated in the president's address to the joint session of Parliament.

Violent Incidents Continue in Punjab State

'Terrorists' Kill 12 People

BK2412144289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] In Punjab, twelve persons including two personnel of the security forces were gunned down by the terrorists in separate incidents last night. In Ludhiana District, the terrorists shot dead three members of a family and another person. Two persons, including a woman, were seriously injured in the incident. In Ferozepur District, the terrorists ambushed a police patrolling party near village Balia killing a head constable and injuring three other personnel.

4 Security Men, 1 Civilian Killed

BK2612032889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead five persons, including four members of security forces, in separate incidents last evening. According to an official spokesman, terrorists ambushed two state roadway buses coming from opposite directions near village Hamar in Ferozepore District killing two policemen and the driver of one of the buses. In Ludhiana District, terrorists killed two Home Guards in village Sohara.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill on Reservations 26 Dec

BK2612124889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Parliament has passed the Constitution 62d Amendment Bill to extend reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in legislatures for another 10 years. The bill was unanimously adopted by the Lok Sabha today. Three hundred and thirty-two members present in the house voted in favor and none against. The Rajya Sabha had earlier passed it.

Hyderabad Company To Produce Short Range Missiles

BK2312155589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Limited, BDL, is to manufacture indigenously developed short range missiles, Prithvi [earth] and Trishul [trident]. Prithvi is a surface-to-surface missile system and Trishul a quick reaction surface-to-air missile system. They provide the Indian defense forces with the needed fighting punch.

According to the inhouse journal of defense and development laboratory, Astra, the first delivery is targeted for 1992.

Economic Advisory Council's Report on Economy

BK2212162789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The Economic Advisory Council to the government has called for some important modifications in the growth strategy to overcome the disquieting trends in the economy. In its report on the current economic situation of the country circulated among the members of Parliament today, it said many contradictions inherent in the strategy pursued so far will not go away on their own. The 15-page report predicted a 4 percent fall in the growth rate of the gross domestic product and said the tasks before the country are serious and daunting with inflationary pressures, difficult balance of payment position, and large revenue deficit of the central government. The situation, however, can be managed by taking judicious decisions and quickly implementing them.

The report also identified certain priority areas for action. These include a fresh look at some of the subsidies, cut in wasteful expenditure, and reorientation of growth pattern with emphasis on employment generation.

The report also calls for diversification of agriculture and steps to increase production of essential wage goods in preference to consumer durables. According to the report a major task is to ensure cost of industrial raw materials through appropriate policies and improvement in quality of products. It called for a reexamination of the industrial, trade, and fiscal policies in this regard. Stating that the burden of external debt leaves little scope for maneuver on the development front, the report called for special efforts to boost value added exports and also wanted prudence in imports. It said the government should go in for maximum use of concessional assistance and adopt careful policies while resorting to commercial borrowings.

Iran

Majles Summons Velayati Over Ceausescu Visit

LD2612163289 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has been summoned by the Majles to give an explanation on executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to Tehran last week, which is gathering moss as the biggest goof of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Forty-five Majles members today called on the foreign minister to appear before the Majles and answer questions as to why the visit was arranged, when winds of change in Eastern Europe were sweeping away the old Communist regimes.

Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Tehran on December 18, returned to Bucharest on December 20, was deposed by a popular uprising on December 22, and on Christmas day (Dec 25), he and his wife Elena were tried and executed by the National Salvation Front.

Velayati has also been questioned by a deputy on the incorrect analysis of the Foreign Ministry over developments in Romania. The appeal was presented to Speaker Hoj. Mahdi Karrubi in a letter.

Meanwhile, the Majles Foreign Relations Committee which yesterday questioned the foreign minister, reported to parliament today that Velayati's answers were not satisfactory enough.

The press has sharply criticized the Foreign Ministry for persuing a policy 'incompatible with the reputation of a revolutionary country,' and have called for 'fundamental reconsiderations.'

Earlier today, the Foreign Ministry dismissed Iran's ambassador to Bucharest Jamshid Gowhari for 'incorrect analysis' over Romanian development. Gowhari who seems to be the first victim of the 'Ceausescu blunder' has been asked for an explanation.

Romanian Envoy, Foreign Ministry Official Meet

LD2612205189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] In a meeting in Tehran today with the managing director of our country's Foreign Ministry, the Romanian ambassador expressed the readiness and interest of the National Salvation Front and the new government of that country to preserve and expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: No rumor can injure the expansion of good relations between Iran and Romania.

In this meeting, the Romanian ambassador referred to the figures of casualties in the recent events of that country. He said: Romania is in dire need of medicine and medical aid. The managing director of our country's Foreign Ministry in this meeting declared that the government and nation of Iran is solidly behind the Romanian nation and new government toward the achievement of humanitarian objectives and assistance to the Romanian people.

The Romanian ambassador announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to deliver rapidly 60 tonnes of medicine, medical equipment, and relief assistances. The Romanian ambassador expressed profound thanks to the Islamic Republic for its help and stated: The biased and baseless propaganda of foreign mass media cannot strain relations between Iran and Romania and prevent the expansion of the two countries' relations. [Tehran IRNA in English at 1746 GMT on 26 December transmits a similar report on the meeting adding: "The Romanian official, who was talking to an Iranian Foreign Ministry official, firmly denied reports that Iranian nationals were serving in deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's secret police."]

Romania Denies Ceausescu Assets Moved to Iran

LD2612203189 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 26, IRNA—In a meeting with Iran's charge d'affaires to Bucharest, Tuesday Middle East director of the Romanian Foreign Ministry rejected rumours by the Western media about a purportedly secret transfer of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's assets to Iran.

He said the 'unfounded rumor is the invention of certain news agencies and does not represent the official position of Romania's National Salvation Front.'

The Iranian Embassy official appreciated the understanding of the National Salvation Front of Romania and reminded that certain Western news agencies mean to disrepute the Islamic Republic before the eyes of the Romanians.

He expressed hope that the Romanian Government officials will evaluate hostile propaganda of those news agencies with good judgement and foresight.

Radio of Iranian Toilers on Ceausescu Visit

LD2612212789 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Criticisms of the regime's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for having invited Ceasescu to Iran have intensified amoung the various ruling factions and camps. In addition to the criticisms made by hardline deputies in the Majles, almost all state-controlled newspapers have condemned the invitation. In this connection, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's group and officials of the Foreign Ministry are under great pressure. Now that the fall of Ceausescu has become certain, Velayati, an effort to toe the same line as this wave of criticism, also said at the gathering he held with Tehran University students: We repeatedly emphasized in our recent meetings with Ceausescu that it is necessary for the late leader of the people of Romania to yield to the wishes of the people of that country.

Anti-U.S. Demonstration Held in Tehran

LD2612184189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] The revolutionary inhabitants of Tehran gathered this afternoon in front of the Majles building and chanted "Death to America" to demonstrate against the U.S. invasion of Panama and respond to the invitation of the Majles speaker and deputies. Our correspondent reports:

Dear viewers, I am talking to you from outside the Majles building. Following the U.S. military aggression against Panama, the ever-present-on-the-scene people of Tehran this afternoon responded to the invitation of Majles Speaker Karrubi and Majles deputies. After a splendid march through the streets of Tehran, they gathered in front of the Majles building and shouted slogans such as "Death to America," and "Death to Israel." Thus they declared their contempt and disgust with the criminal United States. I draw your attention at this point to some of the slogans being chanted by the inhabitants of Tehran in front of the Majles building, against the criminal United States. [crowd chants slogans]

Mr Karrubi, the speaker of the Majles, in these ceremonies praised the people for gathering in front of the Majles building. He said: This gathering is a sign of the contempt and disgust you feel about the Great Satan, America, and your sympathy with the Panamanian nation; the Iranian nation will never forget the crimes of America in Lebanon, Palestine, and the killing of the pilgrims of the house of God, near the divine sanctuary.

The speaker of the Majles, also referred to the fact that the leaders of the U.S. Government do not behave logically and that force is the only logic they understand. He said: If nations want to continue to exist and be independent, they should preserve their combative spirits by making the guidelines of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified, their model in their struggle against the United States and the enemies; they should always be prepared to turn their territories into a graveyard for U.S. soldiers.

The Majles speaker went on to say the United States will never be forced to withdraw from its aggressive stances through mere political struggle, and he underlined the all-sided readiness and increasing alertness of nations in the face of U.S. plots.

At the end of these ceremonies, the demonstrators eight-point resolution was read out. In this resolution, which condemned U.S. military aggression against Panama, sympathy was expressed for the oppressed nation of Panama and decisive support for that nation in its struggle against the United States was declared. In this resolution, the brutal behavior of the British Government toward the Muslim Iranian students was also strongly condemned. In this connection, this morning personnel of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Tehran drove committee patrol cars with their headlights switched on and shouted "Death to America." They drove in formations through the streets of Tehran and gathered finally in front of the Majles building. In this gathering, Fakhroddin Hejazi, a deputy from Tehran, delivered a speech.

Karrubi Addresses Marchers

LD2612214489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1800 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Address by Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi at anti-U.S. demonstration held on 26 December in front of the Majles building in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Salutations to the pure souls of the martyrs of Islam, especially the martyrs of the

Islamic revolution. And greetings and salutations to the endless compassion of the Almighty and the pure soul of our dear and eminent imam. First, we declare our sincere appreciation and thanks to the hezbollah ummah who have responded to the invitation of the Majles deputies and have gathered at this sacred site. And we thank them sincerely even though the esteemed nation of Iran is a steadfast pioneering nation, prepared to defend, at any time, the oppressed throughout the world and to stand steadfast in the face of oppression and injustice. The Iranian nation is not a nation which will allow the spirit of impartiality to dominate them at any time. [shouts of "God is great"]

This invitation and this gathering and assembly in front of the Majles building is taking place in view of the occupation of the small country of Panama by the U.S. Armed Forces. When the news of the occupation of Panama was issued, a wave of contempt, anger, and disgust was expressed all over the world. Liberated forces marched and demonstrated. Intellectual and university forces demonstrated and declared their contempt for America and their sympathy with the oppressed nation of Panama. Many governments attacked the accused and called on America to leave Panamanian territory immediately.

Panama is not solely the issue. And this wrath, contempt, and movement is not merely related to Panama, although it is being expressed on the occasion of the occupation of Panama. The name of America, in the sense of its government and rule and the great satan, is associated by nations with oppression, injustice, aggression, and evil. When nations hear America has attacked Panama, when nations read or hear of this news, they remember America's attack against Libya and the bombardment of the Libyan nation. They remember America's attack against the oppressed people of Lebanon and the killings in Lebanon. They remember the state of captivity and homelessness to which the meek Palestinian nation has been subjected by the Americans. It is these bitter memories which nations recall and associate with America. The name of America and the U.S. Government and the regime have become associated with oppression, aggression, injustice, occupation, and plunder.

Have we forgotten the day when America and the Senate declared in 1989 [as heard]: We want to break off relations with Iran, or we will break off relations if this or that happens. The imam graciously stated: It is a blessing for us to break relations with America; it is a relationship between the oppressor and oppressed; it is a relationship between the plunderer and the plundered. Thus, America's name is linked to injustice and aggression; linked to the contempt and disgust which people feel for it.

Now we are witnesses to what is happening to this devoted, oppressed, and resistant Palestinian nation. And every night, we are witnesses to the crimes of the Zionists who are lackeys of America, those same Zionists to whom America gives arms and money, protects politically, uses its veto wherever the occupying Zionists are due to be condemned, and provides with all resources and opportunities. And in truth and reality, the murderer of those children, the homelessness of those children, and the captivity of that nation are all due to America. And America is the murderer; America is the oppressor.

Moreover, our own people have a very bitter and nasty memory of America. They have not forgotten that it was America that drove their imam into exile; it was America that imposed the capitulations on this nation; it was America that imposed the shah on this nation for 25 years or more; thousands of intellectuals, educated persons, clergymen, popular forces, were martyred by America, imprisoned by it. The system which was committing all these crimes was wrongly supported by America till its last moments, and after the victory of the Islamic revolution, America did not allow this devoted nation a moment's rest or tranquillity and directed tens of conspiracies and injustices, stratagems, and grudges against the nation of Iran. The Iranian nation will never forget the crimes, cruelties, and oppressions committed against it. The Iranian nation considers America responsible for the murder of Kuwaiti brothers in Saudi Arabia. The Iranian nation considers America responsible for the killing of the innocent pilgrims beside the divine sanctuary; America's sleeves and hands are visible in all these crimes.

An Iranian airplane crashed; America deliberately hit it with a rocket, and it crashed. The war imposed on Iran in the Persian Gulf is America's fault; the properties of this nation were blockaded; the military expedition on which America embarked—all of these are crimes which America committed against this nation, just like the Tabbas attack, which is similar to the attack against Panama, except that—thanks to the grace and divine assistances of the creator—before they could make a move, they got nothing, except several burnt bodies, and they returned. Certainly, had they entered those centers where the hostages were being kept, they would have had their graves dug in Iran by the combat forces, by the Basiji forces, by the students of the line of the imam. All the graves of their troopers, their forces, their helicopter crew would have been dug and they would have been surely buried here. [crowd chants "God is great," other slogans]

Therefore, the issue of America is the issue of crime and the record of crimes, which are all characteristic of imperialism. The issue does not only concern Panama. All of us are sorry about the attack on the nation of Panama, and this is the reason for this demonstration; we suffer from that massacre. Our nation is so sacrificing and selfless; we have such bitter memories from America. And due to the tyranny of America, the nation has such spirit of fighting and struggle, in recent days some people came to us or telephoned us to see whether it was possible to go to Panama to defend that nation. This is the spirit of sacrifice among our people and nation. We hereby declare that America is what we see today, with all its actions and behavior. America cannot be made human. America should choose that path and course [words indistinct]. In the face of America, the same way and attitude should be chosen as the one that the Iranian nation has chosen; the same path that the imam delineated for the Iranian nation, when he said: We will smash America's teeth; or when he said resistance cells should be formed to wage a battle against global arrogance, headed by America; or when he said we should deprive the arrogant ones and oppressors of a comfortable night's sleep.

Even if they give some concessions, provide some facilities for some people, or even retreat, they are faced with the clenched fists of the people and their fury, resistance, and steadfastness. If nations seek to continue to exist and be alive, they should create such a spirit among themselves. Many American or non-American nations should bring about such a spririt in themselves. They should assume that one day America will attack them, as it attacked Panama. Every nation should strive to make its country a graveyard for the invading Americans. [passage indistinct]

It is absolute, certain, and definite that America does not retreat from diplomatic methods. America will not be put in its place through soft encounters. We are witnessing the true nature of America, which kills and justifies it. It commits crime and justifies it. It invades Panama and then says it was for the sake of democracy. This is very interesting. Our dear president, our brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his interview last night, said that if America invades for the sake of democracy, why does it not invade South Africa, where a white and racist minority are committing such grave crimes against a nation and they are still being supported by America? Therefore, if any nation seeks to remain alive and in existence, if any nation or community wants to have independence—even if it is a relative independence or existence—it should know that it should stand firm in the face of such enemies and defend itself. I do not mean that it should deploy armies, but it should be able to defend itself. It should prepare itself for defense, so that America may know that such a people are prepared to defend themselves.

Our Majles ratification was indeed related to this. When we saw that America was creating the law of capitulation for itself throughout the world, meaning that its citizens throughout the world are free to harrass others—for example demanding someone's head or ordering an action somewhere—then we issued the Majles ratification in that connection. It was a reciprocal action, because we have thousands of Iranians throughout the world whose security might be endangered. For that purpose, this was ratified by the firm and revolutionary vote of all Majles deputies, so that if America did something against us, we would be able to reciprocate. Such ratification will remain in power so far as America is (?acting in this way). [crowd chants] It is to such a spirit that America gives importance. It is to such a line of thought, viewpoint, and world view that America attaches significance; otherwise, talks, negotiations, and diplomacy have no effect. This is a fact of which the world, the oppressed and the deprived people should be well aware.

Today we see in Palestine and Lebanon what has kept them alive: their spirit of selflessness and sacrifice. Here we have a message for the Palestinians, the Lebanese, and for all faithful forces with an objective: They should be vigilant and stand firm and united against the enemies of God, so that—God forbid—the enemies do not succeed in creating divisions and discord among them. When enemies see that they cannot overcome the will and resolve of a nation, when they see that they cannot break the steel will of a nation, then they try to infilterate into that nation, or they carry out schemes and create divisions and rifts. Nations should be alert and vigilant, in the same way that for the purpose of safeguarding the values and preserving the framework that the imam set for us, our nation consolidated its ranks of unity and solidarity to safeguard its revolution and its territorial integrity. All strata are standing side by side.

The Majles yesterday, or the day before yesterday, issued a couple of statements which were signed by all dear deputies, and today we see that such a great number of people have gathered here in a magnificent assembly, despite all their engagements, problems, and despite the cold winter. This is the spirit of revolution and unity, and it shows the confidence that the people have in their officials, their Majles deputies, and their servants.

Praise be to God, our government, people, Armed Forces, various strata, and our education centers, are all standing side by side and united behind the position of leadership for the sake of safeguarding the objectives of the imam and revolution. [crowd chants support]

I should wind up my remarks now, however, I need to mention two more points which are necessary.

The first point is that our nation owes something to the people of Panama, as they have shown sympathy to our nation in the past. Therefore, it is appropriate that we too show our sympathy. You have not forgotten that when the damned, defunct, and on-the-run shah tried to escape revenge and left Iran, one of the places that America took him to was Panama. However, the nation of Panama protested. They wrote slogans on the wall and staged demonstrations. Therefore, America was forced to take the shah out of Panama. This is the spirit of people. This is the anti-American background that the people of Panama have. Why did they treat the shah in that way? Because he was an American puppet. They knew what a germ America had brought into their country. The enemies of God and nations should still be aware that any person or system who stands against nations and wages resistance against them, and who draws its power from enemies of God, such person or system has no fate but that of the shah or Al-Sadat. Any dictator faces the same fate, whether he is the shah, Al-Sadat, or the Romanian dictator. It makes no difference, as the only thing which remains is a system or regime which has a popular base and which is with its nation so that the nation make sacrifices for it. This was the first point.

The last point is that our imam's words should not be forgotten, in particular the Eastern bloc should not forget them. In his message to His Excellency Gorbachev, the imam graciously said that one should now look for Marxism in libraries only, as it has been buried, because it contravenes human nature. We have seen that the imam's predictions miraculously came true. He graciously said that you have delivered the final blow to Marxism. He also said that those countries should be careful so that they do not come under the domination of the West. America must know that if chaos is been brought about within the materialist, Marxist, and communist world, it must not think that it can now rule the world.

Nations are standing firm, and there is a third way which is the pure Muhammadan Islam. [crowd chants support] In the same way that we can witness the signs and indication of Islam everywhere. In the same way that the leaders of blasphemy express worry about the growth, development, and influence of Islam. In the same way that in every corner of the world we see that every day more and more young people are drawn to mosques and to the study of religious books, and Islamic movements are constantly growing.

In the same way they drew the Palestinian Fatah organization to abjectness by drawing it to negotiations, they thought that they could destroy all struggling organizations; however, they suddenly received a heavy slap on the face when they saw that Islamic movements grew in size, movements that for 2 years they had tried to silence and had not succeeded, despite all the blood-thirsty crimes that the Zionists committed. Islamic movements have grown and evolved everyday, and they could not stop them. The leaders of blasphemy and the rulers of Israel have repeatedly confessed that they cannot stop or control such movements. Dynamic and ever- growing Islamic movements exist the world over, and, God willing, they are sacred movements for the salvation of all nations and Muslims.

Therefore, we express sympathy with the people of Panama, and express our condolences to its grieved families. We further thank our nation that they accepted the invitation of the Majles deputies and took part in this rally. We sincerely thank them all, and hereby condemn America and its crimes. Go home chanting "Death to America." [crowd chants]

Marchers Condemn 'U.S. Aggression'

NC2712080589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Text] Following the U.S. military aggression against Panama, thousands of people in the cities of Orumiyeh, Arak, Hamadan, Asadabad-e Nahavand, Malayer, Yazd, and in Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province simultaneously staged marches in response to the call of the Majles speaker and deputies. The marchers condemned the U.S. military aggression in Panama.

According to IRNA, in Sanandaj, the people and the clerics, Armed Forces personnel, and employees of various provincial organizations staged a march and congregated at the city's Jame' mosque. In a statement disseminated there condemning the veto of the U.S. military aggression against Panama by Great Britain, France, and the United States, the attack on Panama was termed a blatant violation of the UN Charter and an aggression against an independent country. People from various parts of society in all the cities of our country staged grand marches to display their anger and hatred of U.S. aggression against Panama and the dragging of innocent children, women, and men there in blood and dust.

Foreign Ministry's Reaction to GCC Resolution

LD2212161489 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 22, IRNA—In a reaction to a resolution issued at the end of a (P)GCC summit in Muscat, Oman, the Foreign Ministry today stressed that only through implementing the U.N. Resolution 598, a lasting and honorable peace could be established between Iran and Iraq.

"The Security Council's indispensable resolution is the only suitable framework for peace between Iran and Iraq," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement, saying that there were not much room in the resolution for Iraq's exorbitant demands, noted that the Baghdad regime could not for long gain even the least concession through threats or killing time.

"It is surprising that leaders of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council voice support for the U.N. chief's efforts on the one hand and mention in their resolution only parts of an agenda proposed by the secretary general on the other. This contradiction is in no way justifiable," it said.

It recalled that during recent talks between the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers in New York, the Iraqi regime refused to accept a proposal made by Mr. Perez de Cuellar and backed by the Security Council that Paragraph 41 of his report to the Security Council be included in the agenda of the talks between the two parties.

The (P)GCC resolution has mentioned the desire of the two parties to establish a lasting peace while on the contrary Iraq's rejection of all proposals and plans offered by the U.N. chief over the past 16 months is a sound proof of its reluctance to implement Resolution 598 and establish a lasting peace, it added.

However, the Foreign Ministry statement said the (P)GCC resolution "displayed the efforts of the host country and some other member states to create a balance in the stands of the regional countries and to rectify the council's earlier positions."

More on Reaction to Communique

LD2212183689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] In connection with the final communique of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries in Muscat, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of our country in a statement pointed out: The final communique of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council about the Iran-Iraq talks reveals the efforts of the host country and some other member countries to create a balance among the position of the countries of the region and to correct and amend the former positions of the council. Nevertheless, in view of the sensitive nature of the Iran-Iraq talks on implementing Resolution 598, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran finds it necessary to make a few points regarding this matter.

In the final communique, reference has been made to the desire of both sides for the establishment of peace, while the Iraqi regime's obstructionism during the past 16 months in implementing the resolution and the nonacceptance of the plans and proposals of the secretary general for the progress of talks are clear signs of Iraq's unwillingness to implement the resolution and establish a lasting peace between the two countries. In the recent talks of the foreign ministers of the two countries with the UN secretary general, Iraq refrained from accepting the agenda of talks which was drawn up by Mr. Perez de Cuellar, and which also enjoyed the support of the Security Council. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran accepted the proposed agenda, thereby expressing its total readiness for the continuation of talks under the supervision of the secretary general. Therefore, one cannot regard the similar approach of the communique toward the positive stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the obstructionist stand of the Iraqi regime toward the implementation of the resolution as a fair position.

The communique of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council summit meeting has called on the Security Council to support direct talks under the supervision of the secretary general and for the release of the POW's. The UN secretary general has provided an agenda for direct talks in which the priorities for the resolution have been clearly set out as being withdrawal, and the exchange of POW's.

It is strange that the GCC leaders, on the one hand, are calling for the support of efforts by the secretary general, while, on the other hand, in their communique they pay attention only to a part of the agenda drawn up by the secretary general. This contradiction can in no way be explained.

Another part of the statement by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, says: The establishment of a lasting and just peace on the basis of the legitimate rights of both sides, which has been referred to in the final communique of the GCC summit meeting, can only be brought about by the speedy and complete implementation of Resolution 598. Therefore, all the efforts by the GCC and other members of the international community should be directed toward the implementation of the resolution, a resolution in which, after the ceasefire, withdrawal to recognized international borders has been given priority as a binding and nonnegotiable issue. The Islamic Repubic of Iran submitted a constructive proposal regarding the simultaneous implementation of those two articles only in order to break the deadlock in the talks, and in order to move in line with the agenda set out by the secretary general, who had declared the priorities of the resolution as being withdrawal and the exchange of POW's.

In this statement, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again stressed that a binding Security Council resolution is the only appropriate framework for peace between Iran and Iraq. It is only on the basis of the implementation of this resolution that lasting and just peace can be established between the two countries, and peace and security can be established in the region. There is no place in the resolution for Iraq's ambitious demands, and by continuing its policy of procrastination and threats, the Iraqi regime will not be able to gain the slightest concession. It is only through the proper understanding of the points which have been referred to that the countries of the region can also assist the efforts of the secretary general in implementing the resolution and estabishing peace and stability in the region within the context of cooperation among all the Persian Gulf littoral states without the interference of foreign powers.

Velayati Calls on ICRC To Help Register POW's

LD2412224489 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 24, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today reiterated his earlier statement for exchange of prisoners of war [POW's] simultaneously with withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the international borders.

While talking to a group of students at Tehran University, Velayati called on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to exert pressure on Ba'athist Iraq to register all Iranian POW's captured by the regime during its eight-year aggression.

Although ICRC has registered about 50,000 Iraqi POW's in Iran, Baghdad has so far allowed registration of only 19,000 Iranian POW's, he noted.

Velayati had made his 'goodwill' gesture to swap POW's simultaneous with Iraqi troop withdrawal, during special U.N. envoy Jan Elliason's diplomatic shuttle last month, and in spite of its soft tone, the offer was rejected by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Yohanna 'Aziz.

'However it is not advisable for us to free Iraqi POW's if there is no reciprocal measure on the part of the Iraqi regime,' added Velayati, whose Ministry has of late come under increasing criticism for a foreign policy termed by the Iranian press as 'incompatible with the reputation of a revolutionary country.'

On the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, he said Baghdad intends to negate the role of the United Nations and its secretary general by raising irrelevant pre-conditions.

Velayati denied that the Islamic Republic opposes face-to-face talks with the Ba'thist aggressor, and said 'we have already held 15 rounds of talks with the Iraqis.' Iran will never give in to Iraqi blackmail, warned the foreign minister, and stressed that any settlement should be made on the basis of the 1975 accord, and within the framework of Resolution 598.

President Chairs Security Council Meeting

NC2412064789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who also heads the organization, presided over a Supreme National Security Council session. According to the Central News Unit, during this session, proposals by the Defense Security Committee, the Foreign Policy Committee, and the Domestic Security Committee were discussed and were approved.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Sunni Clergy

LD2512175689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] A group of 'ulema and lecturers of the Sunni sect seminaries from Sistan va Baluchestan, Khorasan, and Mazandaran Provinces met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. In the course of this meeting, first Mawlawi Eshaq Madani, the president's adviser in Sunni affairs, addressed the audience on behalf of the Sunni 'ulema and people and expressed support for the great leader and the Islamic Republic's system. Afterward, one of the Sunni 'ulema stressed the need for Muslim unity and elaborated on the outcome of this unity. He announced the readiness of Sunni compatriots, inhabitants of the border regions of the Islamic homeland, to safeguard the system of the Islamic Republic and defend the Islamic revolution. In another part of his remarks, he thanked the authorities of the Islamic Republic and the management board of Qom Seminary for the attention they give to the Sunni seminaries.

Also during this meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his pleasure for the opportunity to the Sunni 'ulema and said: Fortunately, this issue has become clear between us that the secret behind Islam's strength lies in the unity of the Islamic forces and particularly the Islamic 'ulema who can unite the people if they remain united themselves. The president added that in today's world, where an ideological vacuum is visible in human societies, Islam, as the only ideology of salvation in the world, can offer a solution. [video shows close up of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and scans audience, clergy]

The president pointed out that in the wake of the recent developments in the communist world, it has become clear that communism is not acceptable to the people of those countries either and it has had no base among the people. Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued saying: Although the West has succeeded in develping some regions in the world by providing the people with materialistic needs, thanks to their reliance on wealth, industries, advances in science, and their exploitation of the Third World, the people of these countries are not content. This is not sufficient for them because they lack psychological and moral security and there is no justice either. Those who claim to support democracy are the first violators of democracy.

Hashami-Rafsanjani added that the United States, which pretends to support democracy, intervenes in many parts of the world. The U.S. intervention in Panama was under the pretext that democracy was violated and the results of the presidential elections were nullified. Yet it is obvious that U.S. aggression against that country was because of the Panama Canal.

Addressing the United States, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: If you claim to support democracy, why do you not take similar measures in the countries which are your friends? Is there any democracy in South Africa, where a white minority rules over a majority of blacks? Why is the United States not intervening there?

Referring to the point that there are plenty of such examples in the countries which support the United States, the president said: The issue is the reverse in Lebanon and the so-called supporters of democracy prevent the realization of the aspirations of the majority, and this shows that the United States is lying.

Referring to the Islamic Republic's successes, Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the 10-year experience of the Islamic Republic demonstrates that Islam has an acceptable thesis for managing society. Nevertheless, even some Muslims strive hard to prevent the promotion of this idea and resort to every kind of atrocity and create troubles for us, one example of which was the war and the hue and cry about Iraq's desire for peace. However, it has become clear now that the Iraqi regime is not seeking peace.

Referring to the point that we claim that the world of Islam and the Muslim people will vote for Islam, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If the people were allowed to be free in the Islamic world, they would establish the rule of Islam; and if the rulers of some Islamic states were to give freedom to the people in order to realize democracy, the people would bring the rule of Islam to those countries.

While stressing the need for unity and further solidarity among the 'ulema and the people of the Shiite and Sunni sects, the president said: Now the arena is open to the followers of the Sunni sect to work and study and they should enter the universities and seminaries to prepare themselves to take charge of the country's affairs.

Emphasizing that one of our wishes is to set up a university of religious science for Sunni students, the president expressed the hope that with the cooperation of the Sunni 'ulema and lecturers, this wish will be realized and you can welcome religious students from all Islamic countries.

In conclusion, the president expressed the hope that deprived regions of the country will be revived through cooperation and coordination between the people and the clergy, and then the country can progress toward reconstruction and development.

Khamene'i Addresses Sunnis; Calls For Unity

LD2612130989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] During a meeting with a group of Sunni theologians, Friday imams, and seminary lecturers from Sistan va Baluchestan, Khorasan, and Mazandaran, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the world Muslims, described the unity between Muslims of different sects as vital for the world of Islam and of importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed the necessity of exposing Wahhabism as a tool of world arrogance and blasphemy for creating rifts among Muslims, and the necessity of better explaining pure Muhammadan Islam to the people.

According to this report, during the meeting, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the global trend towards forming united bodies to provide their requirements. [sentence as heard] He pointed out the concentration of arrogant efforts to weaken nations, particularly Muslim nations. He said that after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, arrogance efforts and world politics were stepped up to create a rift in the Muslim community. They fear Islam's revival. Islam's power and spirituality is such that if true Islam is established by following its criteria, it will shake arrogant powers and governments.

He described the revival of Islam in Iran and the return of Muslims to Islamic standards and principles as a cause of fear for the world's arrogant powers. He said that isolating the Islamic revolution of Iran from the rest of the world's non-Shiite Muslims and creating a rift between Shiites and Sunnis is one way for the frightened enemies of Islam to fight this phenomenon. Thus, they try to corrupt or prevent Muslims from shouting slogans in the name of pure Muhammadan Islam or the Islamic Republic. Therefore, friends of Islam should be aware and alert, for one cannot expect friendship from the enemy.

The custodian of the order of Muslims stressed the gravity of the responsibility of Sunni clergymen to strengthen Islam and preserve unity among Muslims. He said the Muslim people of Iran are resolved to return to the values of the early days of Islam and observe justice and decisiveness in the name of the religion of God. Therefore, life in the country, which could be a model and a gauge for the revival of Islam, entails numerous responsibilities. To attach importance to strengthening and propogating Islamic values and increasingly stressing the importance of unity among Muslims are among those responsibilities.

He described those who strive to separate religion from politics as enemies of religion and plunderers of the political arena. He stressed the necessity of drawing the people's attention to Islamic principles, faith, government, jihad, education, training, culture, and developing potentials in Muslims. He said that our Shiite and Sunni brothers should forget the past and be friends and brothers, united in expression. To that aim a school should be set up in Iran to bring the various sects together, based on coordination, cooperation, and harmony between Shiite and Sunni theologians.

The leader of the world Muslims then stressed the necessity of being watchful of divisive moves by the Wahhabis. Addressing Sunni theologians, he said that by creating Wahhabism, world arrogance has attempted to set up a safe niche for itself within the Islamic community. You should clearly and frankly expose the part played by the Wahhabis in dealing blows to Islamic unity.

The Wahhabi leaders have no shame in admitting their affiliation to, friendship with, and support for the enemies of Islam, that is America. They are proud of their friendship with enemies of the religion of God. The Wahhabis' friendship with enemies of God is synonymous with their being allies of, affiliated to, and guardians of the interests of devils.

Finally, he stressed the necessity of decisively dealing with the Wahhabis as traitors to Islam and Muslims and pointed out the need to inform the people of the satanic conspiracies of enemies of God.

During the meeting, before the esteemed leader's speech, Mr Mawlawi Eshaq Madani, presidential adviser on Sunni affairs, introduced the visitors in a short speech. While honoring the memory of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the late leader of the world Muslims, he said that the Sunni clergmen reaffirmed their allegience to the leader of the world Muslims. They consider it their duty to obey his eminence's commands for the sake of strengthening the holy Islamic system and declare their readiness to help set up, in Islamic Iran, a school to bring the various sects together.

At the end of the meeting, while condemning Wahhabism, one of the Sunni theologians called for identifying and punishing those who strive for the interests of Wahhabism, by creating a rift in Islamic Iran.

Emami-Kashani's Friday Prayers Sermon on Lebanon

LD2212185989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani at Tehran University on 22 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] The issue which, God willing, I wish to discuss in this sermon concerns first the recent problems in Lebanon. Last year the plans masterminded by the usurper, Israel, and its affiliates caused friction among the Muslims and between two friends of the Islamic Republic of Iran—both of whom are indeed friends of this country, and the Islamic Republic has much respect for members of both groups, brothers and sisters—the parties of Amal and Hizballah of Lebanon. This discord was created between them last year. The enemy who is known had drawn up plans, but the efforts by the Islamic Republic and the visits by officials of Islamic Iran's system culminated in the formation of something known as the Damascus accord which was drawn up in Damascus and signed by the two honorable foreign ministers of Iran and Syria. That accord was to be the criterion for action. The efforts were extremely valuable, and an agreement was reached between those two groups.

Recently discord has recurred in a few areas. I address my sermon directly to those Muslims in Lebanon. We are now sensing a danger which is also being sensed by them. One wonders, however, why they are behaving in such a way when they sense the danger themselves. Why are they fighting each other? Why have they become a means for the avarice of the usurper, Israel, and its accomplices, and ultimately arrogance. Why are they doing such things?

The arrogant powers intend to partition Lebanon and create a second Israel in Lebanon, looking as ugly as the one it has created in that other part of Palestine. The Muslims should unite to resist this action designed by the enemy. [passage omitted] What indeed do they want to do with such discord? How do they want to justify their action to the Islamic world? How do they want to justify it to God? How do they want to justify this to their offspring and descendants in the course of history, if such an ominous phenomenon occurs as a result of this discord?

From here, which is the base of the sacred Friday prayers and as one who has knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence [fiqh] and whose task in the Council of Guradians involves jurisprudence, I would like to say that this sin that you are committing through your discord at present is the greatest of all sins. I wish to stress that this sin that paves the way for the enemy is indeed the greatest of all sins. All strata in our nation find extremely abhorrent the behavior of your two groups. [crowd chants "Death to America," and "Death to Israel"]

We, our nation, the Islamic Republic, the eminent leader of the revolution, and the honorable officials and government of the Islamic Republic, each and every one extends a hand of friendship to you. The Amal and the Lebanese Hizballah are truly two very valuable friends for us. As you know, the Islamic Republic has expended a great deal of effort to resolve the problems of Lebanon. They respect you fully. However, while they extend the hand of friendship, brotherhood, and Islam to you, they say: We hate your dispute. [crowd chants support]

We declare it the greatest sin, this behavior of yours, this dispute you have now created, the dark future and ugly consequences of which you yourselves can see. We declare it the greatest transgression, the surrender of an Islamic country. We declare it a greater sin than drinking and gambling. We ask you to turn all those weapons on usurping Israel and its allies who today are thinking of creating a Maronite and Phalangist government and of establishing another Israel there.

We are warning you that you must pay heed to that intention and resist; you must not allow it. You must turn those weapons, everything, on those enemies. You must have good relations among yourselves; you must be friends. The enemy is afraid of unity, of solidarity. How our eminent iman stressed unity in his will! How he willed solidarity! May God be satisfied with his deeds. How he counseled you! How he counseled all Muslims! All those counsels were of the holy Koran and Islam.

I, too, as a Muslim and as the Friday prayers leader, am only doing my religious duty. Your duty now is to have full solidarity and resistance in the face of the enemy, lest their evil plot—and that evil plot has been exposed many times by the Islamic Republic and the Government of the Islamic Republic. [sentence as heard]

When those gentlemen, the various countries, met in al-Ta'if and issued that statement and reached that accord, the Islamic Republic predicted that they intended to inflict this calamity on Lebanon. I do not know what to say to those gentlemen about that intention. To what extent do they want to make things easy for the foreigner? To what extent? The Islamic Republic stated this at that time.

You are the nation now. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran gives its full support to the Islamic independence of Lebanon, its support for all Muslims throughout the world. It urges all Muslims to piety, unity, and solidarity, especially the Muslim brothers of Amal and the Lebanese Hizballah.

The other matter I will mention in this same connection is that we must be vigilant. We must understand what arrogance plans. We must understand how shameless arrogance is. se how the United States has simply entered Panama without recognizing any border or limit! Look how it has attacked from every side! It is amazing that it still has the nerve to say: I should serve as a model. There are fools in the world who accept them as leaders; they accept them as civilized. They, who are savages in every sense of the world, consider themselves to be civilized, and there are people who consider them civilized—they, who only want helpless victims so that they can crush and devour them and want nothing else. Such is the case now. We condemn the United States attack. We condemn the savage attack on the nonaligned country of Panama. [crowd chants support]

Another matter I want to speak about concerns Resolution 598. From the first day when the Islamic Republic accepted the resolution it wanted peace. It kept saying, however, that Iraq, the Iraqi regime, does not want peace and is a warmonger. During the time since Iran accepted the resolution it has been proven to the world that the Iraqi regime keeps on procrastinating. However, it must know that our water border is clearly defined; the position of the Persian Gulf is clear. The border was established by the Algiers accord. The border remains the same. Every single individual in our nation will defend his rights. [crowd chants support]

No one will forgo his right. At the same time, everyone says: We do not want war; we want peace. That is truly how it is. Our dear imam said on that day: We are telling the truth. That dear imam who never lied, who was not one for lying, who was a man of God, a man who said things on the basis of faith and from the depths of his being, that sincere and truthful imam said: We have accepted the resolution with total confidence and heartfelt belief in peace.

Now, too, the Islamic Republic, the eminent leader of the revolution, our government, one and all, our Majles and our nation are of the same mind, that it has truly accepted the resolution and Resolution 598 must not be weakened in any way. Every single article must be implemented with precision. The world ought to know that Iran has accepted any proposal by the UN secretary general to restore peace to the region. It has been just the opposite with the Iraqi regime which has rejected virtually every proposal and which has revealed its nature. At the same time, while we want real peace, we will not forgo our rights in any way. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

President Confers Award on PLA Navy Commander

BK2512054289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan conferred the award of Nishan-i-Imtiaz, Military, on Vice Admiral Zhang Lianzhong, commander of the People's Liberation Army [PLA] Navy, at a special ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidency] in Islamabad today. The award was conferred on him in recognition of his personal efforts for improvement and strengthening of the bonds of friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan and the navies of the two countries.

PRC Delegation Visits Coast Guard Headquarters

BK2512152989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by Minister of Public Security Wang Fang visited the Pakistan Coast Guard headquarters in Karachi today. The delegation was briefed about the role, constitution, and capability of the Pakistan Coast Guard.

Delegation Discusses Rice, Barter Trade in USSR

BK2412153089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] The Soviet Union has assured Pakistan that it will seriously consider the import of 1,000 tons of Basmati rice from Pakistan. This assurance was made during talks held between the Pakistani trade delegation and the Soviet deputy minister for foreign economic relations, Vladimir F. Mordvinov, in Moscow. The Soviet Union also agreed to provide fertilizer and machinery to Pakistan and to remove the imbalance in barter trade between them.

UN Officials Briefed on Kashmir Situation

BK2312084889 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The Azad Kashmir president, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayum Khan, currently in New York, has had a meeting with the senior officials of the United Nations. He discussed all aspects of the Kashmir issue. Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan apprised the UN officials of the worsening situation in the [Indian] occupied Kashmir and called for urgent efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem. The Pakistan ambassador to the UN, Mr Nasim Ahmad, was also present at the meeting.

Senate Delegation Leaves for Visit to DPRK

BK2312084589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] An eight-member Senate parliamentary delegation left Karachi for Pyongyang this morning on an official visit to the DRPK. The minister of state for science and technology, Mr Javed Jabbar, who is leading the delegation, told Radio Pakistan's Karachi correspondent at the airport that the visit will provide an opportunity to increase cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries and to learn from each other's experience.

Curfew Imposed in Hyderabad After Shooting

BK2612024889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Reports of disturbances were received from several places in Hyderabad last night. Hospital sources say that three persons were killed and seven injured due to gunshots. Police sources say that the shots were fired by people riding motorcycles. Four miscreants have been arrested and the law and order situation is under control.

The district magistrate of Hyderabad has imposed a curfew, except in the (Cant) and Site police station areas, from this morning. The curfew will remain in force until further orders.

Army Chief Comments on Military Exercise End

BK2412163089 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] The chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said the Pakistan Army is fully committed to national defense. Addressing a mammoth durbar [gathering] at the conclusion of the country's largest army exercise, "Zarb-i-Momin" [Assault of the Muslim] near Bhakkar today, he expressed the confidence that all the activities must have further strengthened the trust and confidence our friends reposed in us.

The exercise "Hallmark" of the Pakistan Air Force ended at midnight last night as all participating units ceased operations.

Sri Lanka

Minister Briefs Parliament on Security Situation

BK2312115589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, yesterday informed Parliament of the latest developments in the security situation as reported to him by the minister of defense. These are based on intelligence reports. The minister said that in the course of questioning the subversive elements taken into custody in the recent past a new picture has emerged. Since the success in getting at the top rungs of the leadership of the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] and their close associates, the remaining cadres who are now leaderless in a state of disarray have resorted to new tactics.

He said the latest strategy appears to be to kidnap politicians of both sides—government and opposition—and members of their families and to make impossible demands for their release. Another was to kill innocent citizens who have stood for democracy.

The others are to scandalize international opinion, including bilateral and multilateral donors to prevent aid flows into Sri Lanka and to infiltrate political parties and trade unions.

The minister said: We should be thankful to our security services for uncovering this plot in the nick of time. Now they are in a position to take necessary precautionary measures. We are now investigating into various sensitive areas. I can tell you that certain people, who could never have been suspected of such crimes against the country, are behind this. They are engineered both from within and outside. The government position has always been that democracy must be preserved through democratic means.

The foreign affairs minister also added that the antinational and antidemocratic elements are disappointed that all their previous tactics to destabilize our country have failed.

EPRLF 'Shocked' at Indian Politician's Stand

BK2312163889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 23 (AFP)—A Sri Lankan Tamil party criticised an Indian Tamil politician Saturday [23 December] who had earlier declared that his role in trying to solve the island's Tamil ethnic conflict was over.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said it was "shocked and grieved" at the surprise announcement Thursday by Muthuvel Karunanidhi, the chief minister of India's southern Tamil Nadu State.

Mr. Karunanidhi had said that he considered his involvement in the issue to be ended only a week after he had been asked by the new Indian Government to help bring peace to Sri Lanka.

During the week, he held talks with Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and with India's Prime Minister Vishwanth Pratap Singh.

"We expected Mr. Karunanidhi to hold discussions with all parties in the conflict... just as he held discussions with the LTTE representatives," the EPRLF said in a statement reported by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI).

The statement, issued in southern India, said the EPRLF was expecting an invitation from Mr. Karunanidhi and was "shocked and grieved" by his statement that "the ball is now in their (New Delhi's) court."

Mr. Karunanidhi, who once backed the Sri Lankan Tamil separatist campaign, did not give any reason for his decision to disassociate himself from the task assigned by the new Indian Government, of which his Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party is a partner.

The EPRLF governs Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northeastern Province where India still has some 25,000-30,000 soldiers under a controversial accord signed by New Delhi and Colombo in July 1987. The accord sought to end Tamil separatism, but it was repudiated by the LTTE, which in October 1987 launched a bush war against Indian troops that has left more than 1,000 soldiers dead and hundreds wounded.

New Delhi has begun withdrawing its troops, which at one point totalled more than 50,000 in Sri Lanka's northeast.

Communique Reports on Shots Fired at Helicopter

BK2412092289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0848 GMT 24 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 24 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—A Sri Lankan Air Force [SLAF] helicopter carrying rations to the army detachment at Cheddikulam about 40 km south of Vavuniya was damaged on Friday [22

December] evening by small arms fire near the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] camp. The helicopter, which returned to Vavuniya without landing had 23 bullet holes in its fuselage.

A communique issued today by the Joint Operations Command states that the news item which appeared in the SUNDAY ISLAND newspaper of today under the headline of "Air Force Helicopter Shot Down by Indians" is incorrect.

On Friday evening a SLAF helicopter, which was carrying rations to the Sri Lanka army detachment at Cheddikulam, was approaching to land at the detachment when it came under small arms fire near the IPKF camp. The helicopter returned to Vavuniya without landing and on inspection it was revealed that the aircraft was damaged by 23 bullet holes on its fuselage. There were no casualties.

The aircraft was ferried to Ratmalana, where it is under repair.

Communique Disputes Report by Indian Newspaper

BK2412094489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0852 GMT 24 Dec 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 24 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian High Commission in Colombo has denied a report published in the 23 December edition of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES attributed to its Colombo based correspondent, M.K. Tikku, captioned "India Flays Lanka Charge on Officials" which states that the Government of India on 22 December conveyed to the Sri Lankan president through the Indian High Commission its concern over certain accusations levelled by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister.

A government communique issued today states the report was taken up with the high commissioner for India in Colombo, who denied giving any such impression to THE HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent.

The Foreign Ministry communique states: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was totally surprised to hear of the report that had appeared in THE HINDUSTAN TIMES of 23rd December, under the caption 'India Flays Lanka Charge on Officials' attributed to its Colombo correspondent Mr Tikku.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to clarify that when the Indian high commissioner sought an appointment with his excellency, the president, on 22nd December to hand over a message from the prime minister of India, despite his excellency's busy schedule an appointment was immediately given because of the regard and respect his excellency has for the new Indian prime minister. This message was handed over to his excellency and the high commissioner was requested to convey the thanks and good wishes of his excellency to his prime minister. The meeting between his excellency and the high commissioner lasted a few minutes.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs must state categorically that during this short meeting no reference whatsoever was made to the recent statement made by the Sri Lanka foreign minister.

"This matter was taken up with the high commissioner of India, who has denied giving any such impression to THE HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent.

"In the circumstances, the statement attributed to the Colombo correspondent of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES is michievous and his explanation is being sought".

Spokesman Reports 45 Tamil Rebels Killed

BK2612063889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0552 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Colombo, Dec 26 (AFP)—Forty-four Tamil militants and a civilian were killed in bloody internecine clashes in eastern Sri Lanka Monday, a military spokesman said here Tuesday. He said the clashes between the so-called Tamil National Army (TNA) and the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) occurred at Nithanwella in Polonnaruwa District, which borders the Tamil-majority Batticaloa District.

He said 155 members of the TNA, who suffered the losses in the fighting, had surrendered with their weapons to security forces following the clashes.

Pitched battles between the two groups were fought in Battocaloa early December and left at least 87 rebels of the TNA dead and the LTTE in control of the area.

The Sri Lankan Government has dubbed the TNA an "illegal army" trained and armed by Indian troops, but New Delhi has denied that its troops had any role in the creation of the TNA.

Indian troops, deployed in the island's north and east under a July 1987 peace agreement which sought to end Tamil seperatism in the island, had vacated Batticaloa and the neighbouring Ampara Districts in October-November in preparation for their complete pull-out from the island.

The spokesman said the civilian was killed when he was caught in the crossfire.

Meanwhile, officials said Sinhalese rebels killed seven people including a village officer and his brother in the southern Matara District Monday.

Rebels of the People's Liberation Front (JVP), waging a violent anti-government campaign, have been accused of killing thousands of government supporters and political rivals during the last two years.